

Submitter: Megan Ingle  
On Behalf Of:  
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On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

We cannot continue to underfund our public school system in this state. Our children are suffering and falling behind as a result of chronic underfunding in our schools. It has been over twenty years since we have spent the recommended amount on our students and it shows. The teacher strikes last year are just one example of how our poor funding is damaging the education of our students. I have two students in the PPS school system and they have chronically been in classes that are too large with teachers that don't have the resources or staff support to manage difficult behaviors in the classroom. My child had a substitute for multiple months in Spanish class and none of the subs spoke Spanish. I've heard from many other friends their frustrations of having subs for most of the year with limited learning causing kids to fall further behind. Many friends have decided to put their kids in private schools so they can get the education they deserve. I believe strongly in the public school system and want my children to have a public education but worry that I am risking their futures by doing so.

I also work in behavioral health with kids and adolescents and hear frequently about the limited supports that kids with behavioral health concerns receive at school. chronic absenteeism is a huge concern that is not being addressed well by our schools. As a result kids are falling too far behind and not graduating, which damages their future career prospects but also robs them of years of learning critical social skills and building resiliency. Please don't continue to harm our children with irresponsible funding decisions or we will all suffer as the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow.