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On Behalf Of:
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I have been a teacher for 14 years and while many things get easier with experience, I can say that work in schools is getting harder every year. There are many factors in that, including large shifts in childhood and how students are presenting differently, academically, and socially. Talk to anyone working in a public school, whether they are a teacher, an administrator, in the front office. They will share the feeling of being stretched, thin and constantly asked to do more with less. In my classroom of 28 5th graders, I have one student with no English or literacy skills, one full inclusion student with intellectual disabilities who has about an hour of one-on-one support a day, one student with emotional and behavioral disturbances, four students diagnosed with ADHD, and eight students with significant academic skill gaps. I love them all, and they are growing, but they and I would be more successful with a smaller class or with more staff in the building for support. To maintain quality and experienced educators, the state needs to approve funding that would reduce the constant sense of overwhelm in schools.