

Jill Breen

Senate Education Committee/Sept. 23, 2020

Proponent Testimony/SB 350

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Fedor and Committee Members. My name is Jill Breen.

Last year and the year previously, my daughter did receive transportation to her school, Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Wadsworth from our school district, Highland Local Schools. This was a wonderful experience for her and a safe mode of transportation to and from school.

Our plans were for her to ride the bus again this year along with her little sister who is attending the Pre-K program at Sacred Heart. As of August I did not hear anything from Highland, so I reached out to them. At first, they said I missed the cut off of June 1st to get my kids on the Sacred Heart bus. Then a week or 2 later they decided to cancel bussing all together from Highland to Sacred Heart. It was frustrating as it did not leave much time for planning transportation to and from school. I did fill out the Highland Reimbursement Form that was sent to me. It stated that they cannot give me an amount that I will receive in lieu of transportation.

Now, I am very fortunate that I do not work and I am able to drive my children to and from school. Saying cancelled transportation is a hardship for me is a bit bold. But I am doing this 3 times per day! I am traveling 43 miles a day and spending on average 2.5 hours per day just going back and forth! My husband and I have always been a bit frustrated that so much of our taxes go to the public schools when our children don't even attend them. At least in the past we were getting free transportation from the district we pay so much into. I pulled our tax distribution from the county auditor and found that 64% of our taxes go towards the public school system. I really wish that we could

allocate that money some other way. We pay \$3,155.42 to Highland Local School District and to not receive transportation is discouraging.