

Hello Senate Finance Committee,

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes,

I am writing to you to ask you to Please keep the FY2022 base funding as it is and to increase base Funding FY2024 to keep Cupp/Patterson in line and keep Our Public schools strong.

In the District I represent we only get 38.6-40% funding from the State. This has hurt the Akron Springfield School District in Summit Co. for many years. One reason is the amount of commercial & industrial property that is within our District. However Springfield District has four issues that reflect differently than just property tax income. We are, 1) Highest in economic disadvantaged, 2) Highest in Foster care, 3) Highest in Grandparents raising Grandkids, and 4) Highest in single parent raising kids in our district. All of these combine to make opportunities for our kids harder to provide when you rely on a Local share that does not reflect a correct valuation of its local residence.

Lastly, the idea of increasing the poverty level to 400% of what it is set to now would make 80-90% of our kids eligible for a Voucher to attend another school. This in itself would decimate Our district enrollment. While I support parental choice, the playing field is NO WHERE LEVEL. Standards need to be in place for these alternate schools otherwise what happens? Standards for public schools different then other schools? This is not right when spending public money for “equal” education across the board...

Thank you for your time in this matter,

Dave Hofer
Akron Springfield Schools
Portage Lakes Career Center
BOE member
Summit Co.