

Chairman, members of the house
committee,
I thank you for the opportunity to address
you this morning.

I speak to you today out of curiosity , for I
have many a question for you but one in
particular albeit rhetorical in nature....

How many of you play golf?

Or at least have an understanding of the
game? Whether it's you on the course or a
professional on TV that you see squatting
down to line up the putt? You both have
at least one thing in common... you assess
your surroundings, make a plan of attack,
see the line and plot it, pull back your club
and swing. ...But I assure you this one
thing...you will never sink the putt, you
will never hit the mark, you will never
properly execute your initial intentions if
while your lining up...you move your
head.

2.

I propose to you today ladies and gentleman...that you collectively have moved your head, for a plan was made, a course was plotted and as you pulled back to swing and execute the initial promise and intent, your logic was shifted, you moved your head....TPP was promised to be returned to the schools from which it was taken, that was the course that was plotted in order to make them whole again, and with this realignment of thought in eliminating TPP altogether you will definitely have missed the mark for students all over the state of Ohio and in particularly those within the Princeton district.

How do I know this to be true?

I know this with factual knowledge for I know the lie of this land, I know it's topography, I was born to it I was raised in it. I was fed by it, educated by it and immersed in this district that nurtured

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me. My name is Kelli Lobb Reisen, I am a native Cincinnati, One of four children to be educated in the Princeton district kindergarten through the Sr. High., I am the daughter of an employee of Princeton of 37 years, for my father, Monty Lobb was a teacher, a principal , assistant superintendent, and Lobbyist for our beloved district, lobbying on our behalf on this exact issue 20 years ago.

I am a mother of two recent graduates of Princeton and a child currently attending who is now in her sophomore year. I am a community member who has put my reputation on the line by leading many in my community to vote for tax levies promising that our revenue that was taken from the schools would be replenished by the state who had given their word to this monetary redemption therefore making our levies fewer and farther between.

4.

I have worked every year diligently in my children's elementary school, middle school, high school and throughout the district. I know these villages and communities, I know the faces of our children, I know the socio economic, and racial breakdown of our population. I know that 65% percent of our student body is on free and reduced lunch. I know the struggles that are inherently indigenous to each individual community.

I know our class sizes. I know the financial cuts that we have had to make of 8 million dollars, that wasn't reimbursed that have taken us to the bare minimum and cut us to the heart and the bone....the question is do you?

Do you know the lay of this land? To you understand it's topography that is unique in its demographics and diversity or are you sitting in a chamber operating in a

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vacuum making life altering decisions, changing your logic, your promise your course, your initial intentions all based on some numbers on a sheet of paper? Have you been to Princeton? Have you met our children? Have you been to our communities? If you had you would realize and have taken to heart the following facts;

1. Budget cuts of 16 million dollars equivocates to cutting 160 staff members.

2. 16 million in budget cuts will impact programs such as music, arts and STEM.

3. 16 million in budget cuts will impact clubs, activities and increase pay to participated fees for sports and the arts in a district where many in the student population already can't afford to participate.

6.

4. 16 million in budget cuts will impact services such as busing and maintenance. If we cut our busing how do you propose that we get the children from our poorest communities to school? It will drastically impact attendance scores and graduation rates, all upon which you want to publicly rate us, while at the same time taking our resources away in which to succeed.

5. Budget cuts of 16 million dollars will increase academic class sizes to 30,35,40,45 and more. I know this to already be true for with our current budget cut of 8 million dollars my daughter is sitting in a math class with 36 students...How do you propose at atmosphere conducive to learning when the teacher per pupil rate is already so askew? And you want to double the cuts with our class sizes already this high?

6. Budget cuts of 16 million mean that no program or service goes untouched.

7. Budget cuts of 16 million are equivalent to a 360 dollar tax increase per 100,000 home which is nearly twice the size of our last levy. Our communities have been faithful in passing our operating levies, and tax levies but based on a promise of replenishment from the state. The loss of the 16 million will guarantee more frequent levies at a higher cost insuring failure of passage and devastating communities due to the rapid decline of property values. You understand you don't just decimate a school district but you gut the communities from the inside out that reside within that district as well.

I implore you to realign your course. Return to your original plan of intent, put the children first, keep your promise.

8.

There is still time before you execute your plan and there are the resources available to return wholeness to the Princeton district and all of those to whom you previously promised to do so , for the CAT tax is out performing the TPP tax. CAT is generating about 1.7 billion dollars per year. The TPP tax reimbursement for all 133 school districts is around 470 million dollars. CAT could fund and fix this TPP tax reimbursement issue and still have money left over.

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence. There is no room to attempt to educate our children by happenstance. It takes a course plotted by intentionality and a spirit of perseverance of adherence to a mission, a mindset of children first, led by character bred by promises kept.

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Ladies and gentlemen of the house, the education of our children is not a mark you can afford to miss for there are no second chances.

Therefore I ask you to please return to your initial course, realign your collective head to your previous promise of restoring Princeton and the other 132 districts to wholeness , then keep your eye on the ball , follow through and hit the mark.

Thank you