

Good Morning Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Shuring, Ranking Member Driehaus and honorable members of the House Finance Committee:

Hi! My name is Caitlyn Rosenberg, and I am a 6th grader at Hudson Middle School. I am here today to ask you not to decrease my school district's funding.

First, school means a lot to me. Its nice knowing that I get up in the morning and know that I have a great education waiting for me. I always look forward to grasping the friendly environment of the teachers. The teachers at my school give me the best learning opportunity, and always want to make the learning experience fun. School for me is the best way to learn from my mistakes and to achieve those dreams that you've been having since you were little.

Next, if you decrease the states funding we could lose all of the after school activities, and programs that my school district offers, which includes music, art, sports and many other activities. If you cut the music program, no student would ever learn the true meaning of music or how to appreciate art. For example, this year I had never in my entire life known about the Baroque or Renaissance period until our general music teacher, Ms. Huntley taught us how music came to be over time in history. Music is a part of everyone's life, and if we were to, say.. cut seeing Ms. Huntley to two days a week instead of four, that would make me feel very devastated because music is a part of my life. I play the violin. If all of the music programs were cut such as orchestra, band, choir, and general music, students wouldn't be able to express their individuality. It wouldn't let me express who I really am.

Finally, our district has already made several cutbacks and reductions in the past several years to accommodate financial responsibilities. First, my parents and all the other residents of Hudson passed a levy that increased their taxes to support my school district. Also, My teachers took a pay freeze to help offset the money we needed to keep the school running in a way that was best for their students. Then, there was a reduction of teachers that increased our class sizes and the amount of time we got to spend with our teachers. The feeling of having the class sizes increased is overwhelming for me and can be overwhelming for other students too. Next, I find it totally unfair that our parents taxes are increasing because they are cutting the state fund.

In Conclusion, if you cut our state fund I will be really sad because we might not have the same privileges as we do now. Such as art, music, sports and other activities that we are seeing four times a week. I ask you not to cut state funding because it could cause the amount of time we have with our teachers to decrease, increase the group sizes in our classrooms, and the shorten the amount of time we see our teachers each week.

Thank you.