

Good Afternoon,

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Shuring, Ranking Member Driehaus and members of the Finance Committee:

Hello, my name is Sydney Jones. I'm a sixth grader at Hudson Middle School (also known as HMS). I am here today because I would like to talk you into keeping the state funding for my beloved school district.

My school means a lot to me for many reasons. First, I like my school because it has great teachers that support me. Second, HMS has many clubs, sports, and other after school activities for me to participate in. Last, every day I know that I can come home with something interesting to tell my family.

In past years there has been funding cuts from the state that the district has worked around. Anything more, though, will really disrupt our school system. A few of our school district's past sacrifices include; raised taxes for community members, pay freeze experiences for teachers (which was certainly not fun for them), and the reduction of teachers. With the reduction of some of Hudson's finest teachers over the past years, class sizes have gotten bigger. For example, when I was in kindergarten, there were 17 kids in my class. Now in each kindergarten class there is around 25 kids. This can be overwhelming for some students as well as crazy for teachers. So you can see that losing teachers can be troublesome for many.

Cutting the district's funding not only will harm the students, but it will harm the teachers, their families and every other family in the community. First, teachers could have yet another pay freeze. I know that many of my teachers have kids around my age and their kids need the money coming in to their parents to grow up and be successful. Second, families' taxes will be raised around the community and for many families this will mean that they will have to end family vacations and other family fun for a while. Finally, classes such as music and art may be cut down to just a few days a week or not at all. For many students, this is the highlight of their day and they look forward to it at the beginning of each day.

Many students including me participate in school funded programs, sports, music, art, and other activities. Earlier this year I participated in the school drama club which is threatened by the state fund cuts. I also

participate in a program called 4kids which is a leadership program that may be cut if the state takes away the district's money. Next year I'm hoping to make it onto the Hudson cross country team and the Hudson lacrosse team. I love sports and wouldn't want them to be the option that has to be cut because the state cut our funding.

As you can see, state budget cuts to Hudson will affect many people, old and young, in the community, and outside of the community. Already many kids around the world don't get the opportunity to go to school, so please don't cut the state funding and hurt kids that do get the opportunity to go to school. The community and others are counting on you because no student deserves to have what they look forward to every day taken away from them.