

Submitter: Marcy Hermens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

It is essential to fund schools to the QEM. With the shortfall planned, my district (509j) is cutting behavior staff at a time when student behavior is swinging to highly problematic levels. Even with a trauma-focus, schools are not safe right now. We need these staff and the funding is necessary to make that happen. My district is also cutting educational assistant staff, those staff who work 1:1 with higher need students and teach the small groups to help close the gaps. Without these staff to support, more and more students will continue to fall further and further behind. If students are truly the priority, then you need the staff (paid for what they are worth) there to serve them. Please!