

Submitter: Donna Bleiler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB749

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 749. This bill is poorly written without direction and accountability.

General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, which may be expended for the pilot program established under section 1 of this 2025 Act. It isn't clear whether this is the grant funds that the students will use as part of the budgeting process or whether students will have authority to cut into the actual school budget. What is the purpose of the grant money?

Concerns are just how much of the School budget is a portion? Are they limited to grant funds? What nonprofit organization has experience in implementing participatory budgeting? Nonprofits have become agencies of government with no or little restraints and accountability. Is this intended to be a legal arm for students to get their way?