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Thursday, January 18, 24

Neutral Testimony Regarding Bill on School District Funding Based on Current/Prior Year Enrollment

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2485 which proposes basing school district funding solely on current or prior year enrollment. As a public school district superintendent, I recognize the critical importance of stable and adequate funding for our schools. However, I believe it is essential to address both intentional and unintentional ramifications of this proposed change before moving forward.

Recommendations for Further Consideration:

- **Phased implementation:** Consider a phased implementation to allow districts time to adjust to the new system and mitigate potential negative impacts on growing districts.
- **Flexibility mechanisms:** Explore mechanisms to provide additional funding for districts experiencing unexpected enrollment changes or rapid growth.
- **Data analysis and monitoring:** Closely monitor the impact of the bill on school districts, particularly its effect on funding equity and student outcomes.
- **One possibility could be allowing districts a one-year 'on-ramp'** for districts to allow time to adjust. In FY25, school districts could choose current, prior OR second prior year. Beginning in FY26, school districts would only have two options, current or prior year.

In conclusion, while House Bill 2485 offers potential benefits in terms of predictability and financial accountability, it is crucial to carefully consider the potential drawbacks and unintended consequences, particularly regarding equity and access to educational resources. Conducting a thorough impact analysis, exploring flexibility mechanisms, and engaging in meaningful stakeholder dialogue are vital steps in ensuring that any reform

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efforts prioritize the best interests of students and achieve the desired outcomes for all school districts throughout the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Craig A. Correll
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