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Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2738

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2738. While I appreciate attempts to lower the costs of education, one must be sure to call upon experts and stakeholders before making any attempt to change the current method of calculating the state's share of special education funding. Creating a new methodology without vetting could negatively impact special education in our state. These students are already at the highest risk, compounding the potential impact of this change.

As a former educator and a constituent still very concerned for our schools, I am painfully aware that the state has fallen short of funding special education for more than a decade, leading to a sizeable gap that continues to grow and impacts real students and their families. This bill provides no additional funding this year or in future years. Districts are forced to fill the gap by taking from their own general funds, which ultimately impacts *all* students.

A Special Education Task Force was created for the purpose of reviewing the current method of funding and determining if any changes are needed. Please vote no on HB 2738 and refer it to the Task Force for further review. In the meantime, please follow the phase-in plans proposed by the Governor or the State Board of Education to fully fund special education. Education is the most important investment we can make in our future. Please don't exacerbate the situation without vetting the calculation process through the Task Force.

Jennifer Ancell
Former Educator
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