



State Representative District 60B

Frank Hornstein

MAY 6, 2005 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Neighbors,

This week, House Democrats released our "Strong Schools, Honest Solutions" education plan. This proposal would put a stop to the cycle of cuts to our students, classrooms, and teachers.

It would increase per pupil funding by 5% in each of the next two years, provide an additional 5% for special education in the second year of the biennium, dedicate funding for gifted and talented programs, and fund voluntary all-day kindergarten. The plan would make significant investments in early childhood programming, which is the best investment dollar-for-dollar that our state can make to ensure our youngest citizens' future success.

This is in stark contrast to the Republican Omnibus Education Finance bill, which narrowly passed the House this week on a vote of 70 to 63. The bill as passed relies heavily on revenue shifts and includes \$112 million of property tax increases to pay for our public schools. And still, it will fall short of ending the cuts to our classrooms and teacher layoffs.

I spoke at length about the state of education in our Minneapolis schools on the floor of the House. I told my colleagues about a letter I received from a parent at Lake Harriet School who worried about the impact of additional cuts would have on already large class sizes. I spoke about Southwest High school principal Bill Smith's recent letter to parents describing the loss of 5 and a half teaching positions and a counselor. And I read from a letter sent just this week from Barton Principal Steve DeLapp about how parents are funding core functions of the school, such as instrumental music programs and the third grade reading program.

I recounted the stories I have heard from teachers who spend their own money on supplies for their classrooms because district budgets don't cover their needs; I described the state of my daughters' classrooms, full of old tattered books and broken chairs.

Our public education system is not yet broken, but it is in a serious state of need. That is why I could not support the House Omnibus Education Finance bill, which will not go far enough to stop the cuts to our Minneapolis schools.

The following is a comparison of district revenues between the House Omnibus Education Finance bill and the House Democratic Education Plan.

It is a pleasure to represent you at the Capitol. Please feel free to contact me at any time about this or any other issue of state government.

Sincerely

CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN

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DISTRICT REVENUE INCREASE UNDER DFL EDUCATION PLAN:

DISTRICT	BIENNIAL INCREASE OVER BASE	BIENNIAL INCREASE OVER HOUSE
1 Minneapolis	\$51.930 million (\$1,257 per pupil)	\$22.017 million (\$535 per pupil)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DFL EDUCATION PLAN:

- ◆ 5% and 5% on the formula with no delinking (\$230 million and \$242 million)
- ◆ Voluntary all-day kindergarten beginning in FY07
- ◆ 5% increase in special education (aid, not levy) in FY07
- ◆ \$6 per pupil in Gifted and Talented Revenue
- ◆ 4% adjustment for high gas prices in transportation sparsity
- ◆ ECFE at \$130 beginning in FY06
- ◆ Community Education at \$6 beginning in FY06
- ◆ \$6.686 million in School Readiness
- ◆ \$1.266 million Health and Development Screening Aid
- ◆ \$7.668 million for Head Start
- ◆ \$2.5 million for MN Early Learning Foundation (MELF)
- ◆ \$50,000 for School Readiness Planning Grants
- ◆ \$950,000 for School Readiness Assessment
- ◆ \$3.411 million for Adult Basic Education
- ◆ \$3 million for Intensive English for Refugees

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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