

I SUPPORT: A state budget that FULLY funds our public schools.
I OPPOSE: A state budget that decreases funding for our public schools.

Date: _____

Dear Legislator:

I am a parent in your district and am highly troubled about the financial state of our public schools. I am writing to express my concern about Michigan school funding.

By our constitution it is your responsibility to fully fund our schools. As you are my duly elected representative, I urge you to do the following:

- **Increase per pupil school funding at least by the standard cost of living.** The Pinconning Area School District has not seen an increase in funding in four years despite the fact that costs to run our schools have increased dramatically. We have cut services, eliminated buildings, and trimmed our budgets by nearly \$2.5 million, but I'm afraid there is no more to be eliminated without damaging our children. Without a sufficient increase in funding our children will suffer.
- **Do NOT touch any individual school district savings.**
- **Increase funding not just to cover health and retirement expenses.** Next year, combined health care insurance and retirement increases will be over \$200 per pupil. This is aside from the ever-increasing expenses such as utilities and wages. Increasing funding by \$200 will still mean a reduction in funds that go towards teaching and learning of our children.
- **Fund building infrastructure needs.** While trying to maintain educational programs in a time of budget constraints and reductions, our district is not alone in its frustration of unsuccessfully addressing the needs of our declining facilities. Our buildings have been in desperate need of repair: leaking roofs, asbestos, old wiring, eroding pipes, crumbling buildings, etc. These major updates have been on hold for far too long due to lack of funding.
- **Fix the current funding system.** According to Citizens Alliance on Prisons & Public Spending, Michigan spent more than \$25,000 per prisoner (at level 2) last year, yet since 2002 Pinconning Area Schools per pupil spending was just \$ 6,700 per year! That is an outrage.

As you debate the budget over the next weeks and months please consider our children. Without an educated population, Michigan will lose business, for what business would want to locate to a state without an educated workforce? Education can eliminate poverty. Education is the answer for Michigan.

Every citizen in Michigan needs you to be strong and committed to our children and for our children.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

School: Pinconning Area School District