



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PAUL HEROUX
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RE: CH70 funding

DT: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Chairman of Ways and Means,

I was very pleased when the House offered more for Chapter 70 funding than the Governor recommended, and when the House made a commitment to a bump in the minimum aid. I am writing today because when the time comes during the conference committee, I urge you to adopt the Senate's increase in Chapter 70 funding.

My district is facing severe layoffs in our school department – 83 pink slips went out on 6 May 2016. To mitigate the crisis, funds are being diverted from other city departments to the schools. This is not only negatively affecting all city departments, this stress harms students as they enter year-end testing and morale is low on all teachers and staff, and parents, even those who did not get a pink slip.

Attleboro would get \$35,586,541 in the House budget, but \$35,659,451 in the Senate budget, a difference of about \$73,000 more for schools in my district. This additional \$73,000 is about two Attleboro teachers.

Considering that the Senate's CH70 amount could save up to two Attleboro teachers, I am going to have a hard time voting for a conference committee budget report that scales back the Senate's CH70 amount.

After the Senate votes on their budget, and when the time comes for the conference committee, I urge you to not go below what the Senate has proposed for CH70.

As a related but longer term matter, it is my hope that with the passage of the so called millionaire's tax, we will be able to reform the CH70 funding formula. As we delay updating the formula, the problems compound exponentially for struggling schools districts.

Thank you for your time and attention to these critically important matters.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul".