



Testimony to Senate Education Committee
HB 2596 Creating the Classroom-Based Funding Act
February 16, 2016
Dave Trabert, President

Chairman Highland and members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 2596. It is encouraging to see new school funding ideas emerge but we are taking a neutral position on this bill because there many circumstances where more clarity is needed, including but limited to the following:

- 'Classroom spending' is a subjective term.
- Absent instructions to the contrary, the average cost of a classroom could include spending on Special Education, At Risk and other variables.
- Classroom sizes could vary significantly across and within districts, which would impact the average cost per classroom.
- Arbitrarily assigning a percentage of average classroom spending to administration and other cost centers could result in more (or less) being allocated than is really necessary.
- HB 2596 is silent as to Special Education, At Risk, Capital Outlay and other funding categories so it is unclear whether the formula would include such funding.
- Allocating more costs to classroom spending (whether by spending more or simply changing how costs are recorded) would automatically increase funding for administration and anything else not considered part of classroom average costs.

We would also prefer to see the new funding system hold districts truly accountable for improving overall outcomes and closing systemic achievement gaps for minorities and low income students, which is not apparent in this bill.