

March 5, 2025

Re: HCR 11, declaring the directives of the judicial branch in the Claremont cases that the legislative and executive branches define an "adequate education," adopt "standards of accountability," and "guarantee adequate funding" of a public education are not binding on the legislative and executive branches.

I oppose HCR 11, which would allow the legislative and executive branches to redefine an adequate education from its definition in the state constitution and selectively adopt those parts of the Claremont decisions that it chooses to adopt, if any. Since the legislature did not fund an adequate education, the Claremont cases were brought to force the legislature's hand. In 2025, over thirty years since the Claremont decisions were handed down, the legislature continues to sidestep the issue of funding an adequate education and now seeks to pass a bill which will legitimize this. This bill will undermine the judiciary and the rule of law. It will validate educational inequity and send a message to our children and future generations that the legislature doesn't value their education or how they are treated by the state. Further, it will continue to overburden property tax payers.

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