

Testimony on HB 1579 – House Education Finance Committee

January 29, 2026

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am in support of this bill for three reasons.

1. We need good information to make good decisions.

This is common sense legislation that will allow the state legislature to do its job in an intelligent and responsible manner. When it comes to any major funding decision, access to good information is essential.

For example, as part of the planning process for the new state prison, the legislature will do a study to review the project. Likewise, when it comes to meeting the state's Constitutional duty to fund public schools, we need to have solid information about the funding options available.

2. There is a dearth of solid financial information.

The state legislature has refused to meet its Constitutional duty to adequately fund the public schools. This resistance has led the legislature to refuse reasonable proposals to study the financial options.

How can we decide how the state should live up to its Constitutional duty to fund the public schools, if we don't know the merits of each funding source?

3. This bill will provide us with the information needed.

This bill will determine the fiscal capacity of each funding source, the impact of these options on the people of the state, and the impact on the state's economy as well.

It is time for the legislature to accept its duty and to plan for the future of our state in a careful and thoughtful manner. Refusing to gather information is not careful and is not thoughtful.