

From: [Tommy Thompson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Education Funding
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While Mark Twain was sometimes cranky about education, he also said this:

"Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog."

We all understand the price of a barrel of oil has fallen, but I'll be blunt in saying that just because the value of oil has fallen, don't be the legislature that, through your cuts, proclaims the devaluing of our youth, our future leaders, our children. The price of oil will rebound, but every year you devalue education affects the children greatly. When jobs are cut and teachers and aids lost, those people move on, as in they move out, taking with them families that fuel our communities.

Austerity measures have been shown to be ineffective and we cannot cut our way to prosperity anymore than we can ignore our students, our children, and just hope they turn out ok.

I believe in the teachers and schools in this great State. Make a stand, show your support, start believing rather than doubting. We are diverse and have much to overcome and if you go visit those schools you will see great things, great students, programs, teachers. Don't water it down. Our State depends not on you, it depends on them.

Sincerely,
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