

From: [Jessica Louwerse](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Löki Tobin](#)
Subject: Parent in support of SB 52
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 2:02:25 PM

Greetings -

My name is Jessica Louwerse. I am the parent of two elementary students at ASD's Klatt Elementary, PTA president, and a resident of a low-income neighborhood - a population of families that are disproportionately affected by a lack of education funding.

I'm urging you to support the increase of the BSA.

Our school faced the possibility of closure/consolidation Fall 2022 due to the impact of flat funding education and an inadequate BSA. When the potential closure was announced, I helped to rally parents from our school, including those representing the 150+ students from my neighborhood - many of whom work multiple jobs, do not have transportation, do not have reliable access to internet, English is their second language, or do not speak English at all.

These are the families in our public education system that you will not likely hear from because of these barriers in addition to the challenges of navigating the system of providing public testimony, written or otherwise.

We held a listening session for our school families with translators prior to our townhall. At our townhall, our families showed up and overflowed into other rooms in order to provide testimony about the importance of keeping Klatt open and funding our education system.

Here is what I heard:

I heard from our families how important the public education system was for their children's success and the overall success of their families.

I heard from our families how important keeping our school stabilized, supported, and safe for their children was, which requires adequately funding the BSA and keeping our school fully staffed.

Our schools are not failing - misplaced financial priorities and a lack of appropriate education funding is failing our schools. We cannot continue cutting funding and staffing and expect better results while simultaneously measuring success with test scores that don't reflect real academic and social-emotional growth.

When we don't have adequate funding for education, everyone is impacted. However, those who already face enormous barriers walking into our school doors based on factors driving by their socioeconomic status, are impacted the most and are most likely to suffer the dire consequences of inadequate education, safe and supportive schools, and extra supports to overcome

educational barriers. And again, these are the least likely families you will hear from but they are my neighbors, my children's classmates, and my friends.

I urge you. Please support SB 52. This is an investment in the future of all our children, the future of our communities, and the future of our state.

**Thank you,
Jessica Louwerse**

