

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Sarah Brennan and I live in East Greenwich. My state rep is Justine Caldwell. I am writing in support of HB 5749, which would add categorical aid for our schools in EG that are struggling significantly with an \$800,000 gap in state funding this year.

I am a Mom of two EGPS Students, one in 5th grade at Eldredge Elementary and one in 3rd grade at Hanaford Elementary. I serve as the fundraising chair on the PTG for both schools. I moved to moved to East Greenwich in 2021 from West Warwick where I served a similar role on the PTG. What's been surprising to me, in our new town, is the amount of things that the PTG supports financially that I would consider basic needs in a school. We've funded classroom supplies, furniture, playground equipment (and toys), we even had a request to fund custodial equipment at one of our lower elementary schools. In West Warwick, a town that receives much higher support from the state, the PTG was solely responsible for funding "Fun activities" for the students like Field Trips which were the first items cut from the EG Principal's fund budget this year.

As I've become more involved with the budget workshop our school committee has been hosting, I've become more concerned about the impacts of the reduced funding in the coming year. One item that is particularly concerning is the need to cut TA's in the district. As it stands now, Hanaford Elementary has one teacher's assistant to supervise over 100 students at 3rd grade lunch and recesses. Other concerns include cuts to sports programs and transportation.

On top of the reduced funding for "Fun Activities" and adequate staffing, our buildings are falling apart. The High School most concerningly with leaking ceilings and plumbing issues.

Through the funding we raise as a PTG and our tax dollars, the EG parents are already contributing as best we can to EG Schools. I'm asking your committee to please help us fill the gap with additional state aid.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Sarah Brennan

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