

Chris O'Brien

From: Xenia Murphy <xmurphy@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:16 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: HB 5749

Categories: Yellow category, Red category

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is Xenia Murphy and I live in East Greenwich, RI. My state representative is Evan Shanley. I am writing in support of HB 5749, which would add categorical aid for our schools in East Greenwich. Our EG schools are struggling significantly with an \$800k gap in state funding.

I am a mother of a 5th grader in East Greenwich. My daughter will be going to Cole Middle School in the Fall. I am very disappointed with the physical characteristics of our schools (leaking and peeling ceilings, broken heating, broken chairs in auditoriums, mold, etc.), which I know is being (partially) being addressed through the school bonds EG approved last year. But to know that, as tax payers, we are already going to have to face an increased tax burden to account for the physical characteristics of our schools and then to learn that we need to make further cuts to things like programming at Cole, field trips, or librarians, is very frustrating and disappointing. I have always been a big proponent of public schools, but I recently went to tour a private school because I am disappointed in the offerings at the public schools. And, unfortunately, it seems like others are choosing to leave EG public schools for similar concerns. We decided to not pull our daughter from public school and to instead see how our first year is at Cole, but I really want to emphasize how much our EG schools need additional funding.

Within EG we are asking our Town Council and School Committee to work towards trying to find a long-term solution to bring to the Governor's Office and General Assembly in the off-season, but we have already had impacts for this school year and anticipate further impacts in the 2025-2026 school year. This translates to serious losses to our students, who are already learning in run down buildings with significantly limited staff and program. Parents and teachers already contribute our own dollars (as well as tax dollars) to support our schools regularly.

I appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

Thank you,

Xenia Murphy
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