

Original Message-----

From: Paul Schlichtman <paul@schlichtman.org>

To: greeleycom@aol.com, MKrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, Allan Tosti <abtosti@rcn.com>

Cc: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Date: Thu, 11 Feb 2016 22:27:27 -0500

Subject: Fwd: [mascinfo] Suburban Coalition Resolution

On February 12, the Arlington School Committee voted to adopt the Suburban Coalition resolution pertaining to adopting the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

The school committee also asked me to forward the resolution to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, with the request that you join us in adopting the resolution.

Paul Schlichtman, Chair
Arlington School Committee

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: info@suburbancoalition.org

To: gallivann@aol.com

Sent: 2/1/2016 6:16:20 A.M. Eastern Standard Time

Subj: A Call to Action on Chapter 70 Funding

Suburban Coalition

P.O. Box 103

Concord, MA 01742

suburbancoalition.org

Chapter 70 Resolution

The success of Massachusetts' economy is a result of dedicated commitment and strategic priorities. Beginning as the birthplace of public education in America and advancing to the 21st century, student achievement in Massachusetts is frequently cited, by various academic measurements, as the best in the nation. This enduring tenet is a key ingredient to the strength of our State's economy. Strong public schools provide the foundation for successful college students as well as a feeder system for bright, innovative future leaders in the workplace. If we do not take active steps to preserve our commitment to public education, other states will be glad to gain a marginal advantage. After acknowledging that the 1993 funding formula for Chapter 70 contains unrealistic and outdated factors, the Massachusetts Legislature commissioned a study group

known as the Foundation Budget Review Commission in 2014. The task was to determine the cost of providing an adequate education in current times in Massachusetts. The results were released in two phases, one in June 2015 and the other this past November, and they confirmed what educators and local officials have long known to be true: the cost of educating the students of Massachusetts is severely underestimated by the existing funding formula.

As we prepare local FY17 budgets, the Suburban Coalition urges each town's Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee or Advisory Committee to adopt the attached resolution that simply asks the Legislature and the Governor to fund the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Especially during the recession, the cost of an adequate education has disproportionately fallen on local taxpayers and the resulting strains on local budgets are not sustainable within the limits of Proposition 2 ½. The Suburban Coalition has chosen this specific area of focus because Chapter 70 is generally the single largest contributor to the bottom line of cities or towns' Cherry Sheets. Additionally, too many cities and towns have struggled with "minimum aid increases" for five or more years, and the timeliness of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's reports makes this the ideal budget cycle. With the release of the Governor's budget proposal, it has become clear that we need to stand together if we hope to see progress with Local Aid.

We would like to track our progress, so please alert us at DorothyPresser@suburbancoalition.org after your boards have voted to send the attached resolution [Chapter 70 Funding Resolution](#) (click to open) to Beacon Hill.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Presser
President

Reference documents on our position:

Foundation Budget Review Commission Final

Report <http://www.mass.gov/legis/journal/desktop/2015/fbrc.pdf>

"Cutting Class: Underfunding the Foundation Budget's Core Education Program", Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center http://www.massbudget.org/reports/pdf/Cutting_Class.pdf

"Our Communities and Our Commonwealth: Partners for Progress and Prosperity", Massachusetts Municipal Association http://www.mma.org/images/stories/NewsArticlePDFs/mma_news/mma_partnership_principles.pdf

"A Preview of the FY17 Budget", Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center http://massbudget.org/reports/pdf/FY17BudgetPreview_Final_1-21-2016.pdf

"Building a Strong Economy: The Role of Education, Transportation and Tax Policy", Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center <http://massbudget.org/reports/pdf/building%20a%20strong%20economy.pdf>

Massachusetts Municipal Association Testimony <http://www.mma.org/advocacy-mainmenu-100/letters-to-state-leaders/14517-mma-testimony-to-joint-committee-on-ways-and-means-urging-support-for-key-municipal-and-school-aid-programs>

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