

Dear Representative/Senator,

I am writing to urgently call your attention to a critical issue that is deeply affecting public education in our state: the outdated revenue limit worksheet for school funding. As it currently stands, this system is no longer aligned with the realities facing our schools and is, in fact, hindering their ability to provide quality education to all students.

When the revenue limits were originally established in 1993, they were part of a larger package aimed at controlling property tax levies and ensuring fiscal discipline. The structure was built on the premise of a balanced "three-legged stool" of funding, with the state contributing two-thirds of educational costs. However, over time, the foundation of this framework has eroded. In 2003, the state broke its two-thirds funding commitment, and in 2009, the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO) was repealed, leaving the revenue limits as the sole remaining element of the original plan. Yet, these limits have never been updated to reflect the profound changes that have occurred in school funding over the past three decades.

The result is an outdated and ineffective system that no longer meets the needs of schools. Despite modest increases in state aid, the revenue limit structure continues to restrict schools' ability to access the resources they require. Many districts are forced to rely on referendums just to maintain basic operations, placing a disproportionate financial burden on local communities. This is neither sustainable nor equitable. Schools across the state should not be in a perpetual struggle to fund their classrooms, their staff, or their facilities.

Recent proposals, such as those put forward by Governor Evers, offer short-term solutions like property tax relief. However, these measures fail to address the root cause of the problem: an antiquated funding formula that is increasingly irrelevant to the needs of today's students and educators. While shifting the financial burden from local taxpayers to the state may seem like a solution, it does nothing to provide the fundamental reforms needed to truly improve school funding. What we need is a comprehensive overhaul of the state's funding system—one that lifts outdated caps, ensures equitable funding, and empowers our schools to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The current revenue limit structure, in its present form, is a major obstacle to the equitable, high-quality education that all students in our state deserve. It is no longer a tool of fiscal discipline; rather, it has become a barrier to progress. I strongly urge you to advocate for the complete re-evaluation and overhaul of the revenue limit worksheet, or better yet, its outright removal. Our students, educators, and communities deserve a funding system that supports their needs, not one that stifles them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. I trust that you will take the necessary steps to ensure that our schools are given the resources they need to succeed. I look forward to your response and to seeing meaningful action taken to reform our school funding system.

Sincerely,