

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Dear Senator Rothman,

As a resident of the West Shore School District, I am writing to urge you to take immediate legislative action to address the deeply flawed cyber-charter school funding formula that is placing an unsustainable burden on our public schools.

As you know, in 2023, Pennsylvania's school funding system was ruled unconstitutional due to the gross disparities in educational quality driven by geographic and economic inequities. Yet, despite this ruling, public school districts like ours continue to be drained of vital resources by a cyber-charter funding system that lacks transparency, fairness and fiscal accountability.

In the 2022-23 school year alone, the West Shore School District spent \$8.4 million on cyber charter tuition- **an increase of 232% since 2015-16**. These expenditures divert essential funding away from our classrooms, teachers, and support services. This is money that could otherwise be used to address the \$17.9 million adequacy gap still remaining for our district, support students with IEPs (21.1% of our student population) and ensure a high-quality education for all learners.

The proposed reform- to establish a flat rate of **\$8,000 per regular education cyber-charter student would result in \$2.19 million in net savings** for the West Shore SD. These funds could be reinvested directly into our neighborhood schools, benefiting all students and easing the heavy burden currently placed on local taxpayers.

We respectfully ask that you support this proposal and make it a priority in the upcoming budget negotiations. Every student in Pennsylvania deserves access to a fully and fairly funded public education, and it's time for our laws and budget to reflect that reality.

The residents of the West Shore School District are counting on your leadership to uphold the constitutional right of every child in our Commonwealth to a quality education- no matter their zip code. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Signature

Municipality