

# CLAY AURAND

Testimony before the  
House Education Budget Committee

Testimony on **HB 2003**

February 14, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2003.

Although the structure of this bill is somewhat complicated, the purpose is quite simple. HB 2003 will simply mandate that a certain percentage of the current LOB will move from being optional to being mandatory. The reason for doing this is simply an effort to put the state in a better position in the court case that we are currently facing regarding school funding.

I have attached with my testimony a letter dated April 21, from Legislative Post Audit which speaks to how they handled LOB money in their cost study. I would refer you to the second page where they state that if the law "had made parts of the LOB mandatory, we would have felt we had to count the applicable funds as covering part of the estimated \$3.151 billion cost". The goal of this bill is to change the law in a way that would allow current LOB dollar to be counted as foundational, and in a way that is revenue neutral to school districts.

There can be arguments made about how much this change might help with regard to the lawsuit, however, I believe that it certainly could help and, in any case, there is no real downside.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'll be pleased to answer any questions.

Clay Aurand