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Mark Desetti  
House K-12 Education Budget Committee  
HB 2346  
February 17, 2017

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to address HB 2346.

As I read the bill, this is the best I can figure out:

The Legislature picks a number of dollars they say is adequate for whatever the State Board decides our schools should do.

That money is given to the State Board of Education and they can distribute it in whatever manner they see fit so as to achieve the Rose Capacities.

And I believe the idea is that the Legislature can't then get sued because they assert they gave an adequate amount of money and the State Board must have distributed it incorrectly.

KNEA stands in opposition to this bill.

It does not address any of the plan components we submitted to you in our testimony on HB 2270 and HB 2324.

It makes no provision for future funding. There is no inflation measure, no provision for funding beyond 2018.

The biggest issue in this is that the State Board of Education is tasked with managing the educational interests of the state and, if one assumes that the legislative intent behind this bill is that the legislature will fund whatever the State Board determines is necessary to address the educational interests of the state, then the bill needs to say that. Instead it is like the parent who gives a child \$100 to buy any school supplies he or she needs. When the child comes home from shopping and says the cost of the scientific calculator needed for her calculus class will break the \$100 budget, the parent responds, "I gave you an adequate amount. You must have budgeted it inappropriately."

We would ask you to reject HB 2346 and use House Bills 2270 and 2324 as a framework for your discussions.