

Submitted Written Testimony

To the Task Force on Implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report,

I'm writing in support of taking action based on the most accurate and current data, which is the 2019 Pupil Weighting Factors Report. Vermonters have been impacted financially by these outdated formulas and (more importantly) our most vulnerable students have had fewer resources directed to their schools as a result. I'm advocating for this to be resolved on a deep level, not bandaged and kicked down the road. Adjusting the Pupil Weighting Formulas will build more equity into the State's education funding equations. Alternative solutions for "fixing" the equity problems, such as grants or other financial aid are less reliable, less stable, and don't address the inequity that is built into the formulas. These more temporary, short term measures would poorly patch over the problems at the root of the issue (the outdated pupil weighting system). I hope the Task Force will do the right thing, even if it is the more difficult thing, by recommending this real change to Education Funding in Vermont. It is crucial that the weights used in the education funding formulas be updated to reflect the current reality of educating Vermont's kids.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kate Lasko, mother of 4th and 7th Graders in Burlington School District