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From the Office of the Mayor of Winooski

Kristine Lott, Mayor
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To: Members of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report

Dear Task Force Members,

I write to you today to urge you to spend your limited time as a Task Force to follow through with the legislature's charge that you create a plan to implement the recommendations of the pupil weighting study report. You have an opportunity to help Vermont update this outdated formula. We have long known that it requires more resources to support some students and as a state, we have committed to building that equity into our funding system through pupil weighting. We know the weights are outdated and we simply need a plan to phase in adjustments to the formula over time.

I know the task force has discussed a categorical funding approach instead of correcting the weighting. Allowing the weighting to remain inaccurate and inequitable and instead adding additional revenue is an inefficient and expensive solution that does a disservice to our commitment to equity in education. Categorical funding will create more red tape, more administrative cost, more barriers to getting the right resources to students in an efficient and effective way. The number one concern I hear about from my constituents is that Vermont is not affordable and more specifically, housing is not affordable, a problem directly exacerbated by increasing revenue instead of doing the work to make the system more efficient and effective. I would urge the Task Force to abandon this idea and focus on implementing the recommendations we already know will correct our funding system.

Thank you for your time and service on this Task Force, and for committing to increasing equity in our education funding system.

Sincerely,



Kristine Lott
Mayor

