

Testimony in Opposition to HB2391

House Education Budget Committee

March 21, 2013

Chuck Schmidt
Superintendent
Independence USD 446

Representative Cassidy and Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB2391. My understanding of this bill is that it would allow districts who qualify for ancillary weighting to raise additional funds locally.

The reason I oppose this bill is because it once again pushes the funding responsibility onto local communities. There is a huge disparity in the ability of communities to raise money through property taxes. A striking example is two similarly sized districts; Galena and Burlington.

<u>District</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>Funds raised by one mill</u>
Galena USD 499	758	\$14 million	\$14,000
Burlington USD244	836	\$345 million	\$345,000

Without equalization this bill would simply add to the inequities in funding of school districts.

Many districts, regardless of their wealth, would not be able to raise the mill levy for additional funding. My district is one of those. Our property owners are already heavily burdened with the property tax and would not tolerate increases. The property tax is the most hated of all the taxes and that is the only way a school district can raise additional funds.

Unless this bill would include equalization weighting, I urge you to reject HB2391

Chuck Schmidt

House Education Budget Committee

Date: 3/25

Attachment #: 4