



Suburban Coalition
PO Box 103
Concord MA 01742
Phone 781-326-2473
www.suburbancoalition.org

Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations

Whereas the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;

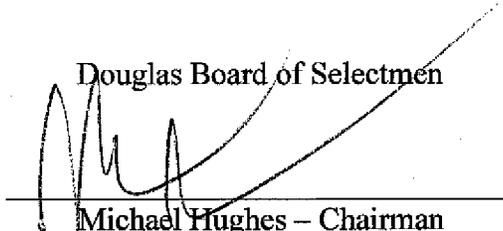
Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;

Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future;

Whereas state and local economies are most effectively strengthened "by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers."

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Douglas calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

Douglas Board of Selectmen



Michael Hughes – Chairman

March 8, 2016



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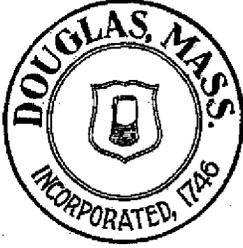
Rationale: The Foundation Budget Review Commission (FRBC) was established by the Legislature in the FY16 budget and was charged with examining the Foundation Budget (Chapter 70) formula. The formula was first established as part of the Education Reform legislation in 1993 and has not been thoroughly reviewed or updated since that time. The FBRC found that the current formula understates costs significantly in two areas: Employee Health Insurance and Special Education.

If the recommendations of the FBRC had been implemented in the FY16 budget, state funding for education would have been about \$500 million more than it was. However, if Chapter 70 reflected the true cost of education, the number would be closer to \$2 billion.

Spending by school districts over the required Net School Spending amounts has increased, as a whole, for more than a decade, indicating that communities are using local property taxes and diverting funding from other portions of municipal budgets to fund their schools. In FY14, the total spending above Foundation in the state was \$1.7 billion. At the same time, the state's commitment to municipal aid has declined. Since 2001, unrestricted local aid has been cut by 43%. The net effect is a combination of cuts to local and school services and an increasing reliance on the regressive property tax.

The evidence overwhelmingly establishes the correlation between a well-educated workforce and higher income individuals. States that invest more in education have a higher paid workforce; also, states that increase the level of education of their population see greater productivity and higher wages over time. The link can then easily be made between higher paid individuals and less reliance on various forms of government assistance, as well as lower rates of crime.

A state's high school and college attainment rates are important factors in the state's overall economic strength. Additionally, investments in education can have significant long-term impacts on state and local economies, as well-educated individuals tend to stay relatively local and contribute tax dollars to the state and municipality in which they reside. In general, the taxes paid over time by these individuals are substantially higher than the cost of their public education.



TOWN OF DOUGLAS

Michael D. Hughes - Chairman
Kevin D. Morse - Vice Chair
Timothy P. Bonin
David P. Cortese
Harold R. Davis

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
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Michael J. Guzinski
Town Administrator

Suzanne L. Kane
Administrative Assistant

March 10, 2016

Senator Ryan Fattman
State House, Room 111
Boston, MA 02133

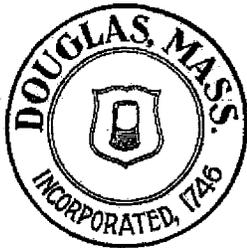
**RE: Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review
Commission's Recommendations**

Dear Senator Fattman,

Enclosed please find a resolution approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting, March 8, 2016.

Regards,

Suzanne Kane
Administrative Assistant



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Administrative Assistant

March 10, 2016

Representative Joseph McKenna

State House, Room 437

Boston, MA 02133

**RE: Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review
Commission's Recommendations**

Dear Rep McKenna,

Enclosed please find a resolution approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting, March 8, 2016.

Regards,

Suzanne Kane
Administrative Assistant



Suzanne Kane <skane@douglasma.org>

Douglas Resolution Calling for Full Funding

1 message

Suzanne Kane <skane@douglasma.org>
To: dorothyresser@suburbancoalition.org

Wed, Mar 9, 2016 at 3:40 PM

Hi Dorothy,

Attached please find the resolution approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting last night, March 8, 2016. Please let me know if I need to send a hard copy somewhere.

Regards,

-
Suzanne Kane
Administrative Assistant

Board of Selectmen / Town Administrator
Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516
508-476-4000 ext. 100
skane@douglasma.org

Kindly remember that the Secretary of State has deemed email a public record.

**Douglas Resolution - Full Fund of Foundaton Budget Review Commission's Recomendations 3-8-****16.pdf**
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