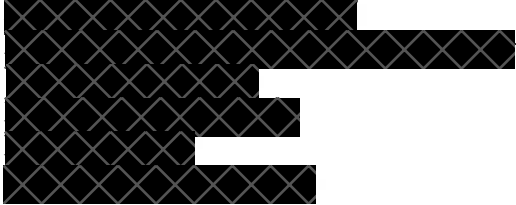




October 4, 2023



Dear

As we gear up for another busy budget season ahead, I write today to offer a thank you for your hard work and dedication in addressing the funding disparities facing public education, specifically in the context of June’s budget negotiations. Your work was instrumental in ensuring that education funding remains in public schools. The unity of the Democratic House caucus was significant, and that is attributable in no small part due to your leadership.

When Commonwealth Court Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer ruled with finality the Commonwealth is in violation of its constitutional obligation to ensure that every child across Pennsylvania have access to a thorough and efficient system of public education, Judge Jubelirer charged the legislative and executive branches with coming up with a solution to this decades of disinvestment.

I would be remiss not to point out that Judge Jubelirer’s ruling speaks to our system of *public education*, and any legislation that seeks to circumvent that ruling by creating or expanding upon private school vouchers circumvents that obligation and makes our goals of equity that much more elusive. Aside from the ruling itself, I’ll also point to the research on vouchers: they don’t work. I’ve included just one document that provides an overview of the current research on vouchers, which you can also access here: www.shankerinstitute.org/blog/school-vouchers-there-no-upside

In September, I was honored to have the opportunity to present testimony before the Basic Education Funding Commission. I am enclosing a copy of my testimony as well as a number of supplemental documents that I referenced. You can also access all materials here: <https://pft.org/press/bef>

The solution is investing in our young people. The solution is investing in the people that work with our young people and help them grow and thrive. From smaller class sizes to community schools, from CTE programming to more support staff—we know what works.

I invite you to follow up with any additional information you may need. Further, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you. Please feel free to have a member of your team contact Hillary Linardopoulos (HillaryL@pft.org) if you’d like to schedule a meeting.

Again, I thank you for your ongoing work and partnership.

Sincerely,

JERRY T. JORDAN
President

JTJ/kvp, usw 10-286, afl-cio