

*A/e c.o.
HB 593*

From: Mary Butts [REDACTED]
To: <aegolf@pahousegop.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 2, 2002 10:43 AM
Subject: alternative

I APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS TO HAVE PARENTS PAY FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IF THE KIDS ARE PROBLEMS AND DISRUPTIVE.

GOOD LUCK.

MARY BUTTS

DEC 4 2001

LEGISLATIVE POSITION



OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENTAL
AND MEMBER RELATIONS

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TO: House of Representatives
SUBJECT: Position Paper – House Bill 593 P.N. 650
DATE: November 30, 2001

PSBA SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 593

House Bill 593 is a free standing bill that establishes the Student Responsibility Law. The bill provides for post-expulsion procedures for students and authorizes certain actions by school boards. Specifically, the bill ensures that no school district will be required to pay for the education of an expelled student during the period of expulsion, unless the student's parents can prove they lack the financial resources to do so. Further, the legislation requires every school board to enact a policy governing the readmission of expelled students. The bill also establishes provisions governing the transfer of expelled students from both public and non-public schools.

PSBA supports HB 593. The bill serves to clarify ambiguities contained in Chapter 12 of the State Board of Education's regulations and the School Code. Regulations state that even though a student is expelled his or her education must continue through an alternative means. HB 593 strengthens provisions regarding the responsibility of payment for an expelled student's alternate education. Currently, Chapter 12 does require parental payment, however; provisions of the regulations easily allow circumvention of this process with no more than a written statement from parents to the school district stating that they cannot afford to do so. Unfortunately, this process is abused throughout the commonwealth. HB 593 firmly places on parents the responsibility to pay for an expelled student's education unless they can prove that they do not possess access to adequate financial resources.

The bill places further accountability and responsibility on the parents of expelled students to ensure that once readmitted to the school district the student's subsequent behavior meets school guidelines, a provision that is not contained in current law. Also, provisions of the bill permit a school entity to deny admission to a student who is currently expelled from another school entity, which will prohibit students from circumventing their expulsions by simply transferring when expelled or before a formal expulsion has been rendered.

PSBA also supports the following amendment posted to HB 593, #A2190 – This amendment would prohibit school boards from assigning community service that would interfere with the paid employment of an individual.

Attached is a sheet detailing the general provisions of House Bill 593.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL 593

Post-expulsion responsibilities of parent(s), student and school entity:

- Parent(s) of expelled student must make arrangements for the child's alternate placement within 30 days of expulsion and notify the school entity of such.
- If parent(s) do not or cannot make arrangements within the time allotted, they must notify the school entity.
 - At this time the school entity may request documents to determine if the parent(s) are financially able to afford an alternate placement.
 - If the parent(s) are deemed financially able, they must pay for the actual cost of their child's alternate placement, or a portion thereof determined by the school board.
 - If, after a 12-month period from the date of expulsion, the child has not been readmitted to the school entity, then the entity must provide the student with an alternate placement determined by the school board.
 - If parent(s) cannot afford placement the school entity will place the child at its expense.
- The school entity must provide parent(s) and student with all pertinent information detailing local policy and a student's rights with regard to expulsion.

Readmission of expelled students:

- All school entities must implement policies governing the readmission of expelled students.
- Expelled students will not be eligible for readmission if they:
 - are 21 years of age or older.
 - have graduated from another public or private school.
 - have acquired a General Education Development (GED) certificate.

Transfer of expelled students:

- A receiving school entity is not required to provide an alternate placement to a transferring expelled student during the 12-month period from the date of expulsion, provided that the parent(s) have been determined financially able to pay for such.
- Expelled students seeking a transfer are subject to the sending entity's determination of financial inability.
- A school entity may provisionally enroll a student until it receives copies of the student's disciplinary records. If a provisionally enrolled student or other transferring student has committed acts while enrolled in another school (public or non-public) that would have caused him or her to be expelled from the receiving school entity, the receiving school entity may, after hearing, expel or deny admission to the student or impose such other discipline or disciplinary assignment that is consistent with the policies and procedures of the receiving school entity.
- In instances of non-public to public school transfers, if the reason for expulsion in the non-public school would have warranted expulsion in the public school, the receiving entity is not required to admit the student into its regular education program until the period of expulsion has expired.
- All expelled students and parent(s) of such students are still subject to the truancy laws of the commonwealth if the student is expelled and the parent(s) do not provide for an alternate program placement.

ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
MAJORITY VICE CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
CHILDREN & YOUTH

APPOINTMENTS:

FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE
PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' MEMORIAL COMMISSION

November 14, 2001

COPY

Mr. Joseph B. Moyer



Chambersburg PA 17201-8688

Dear Mr. Moyer:

Thank you for your recent letter of support for my bill. (I assume you were referring to HB593, which would require parents to pay for educating their child who has been expelled from a public school.)

I appreciate your remarks and will keep your letter on file until we are able to get the legislation passed.

I also agree with you that we should encourage home schooling, but I don't believe it will be politically feasible to pass legislation to subsidize home scholars. However, I would like to see more public schools allowing home scholars to participate in their extracurricular activities, which is permitted by current law.

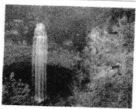
Again, thank you for writing to share your concerns and suggestions with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Egolf".

ALLAN EGOLF
State Representative
86th Legislative District

AE/cg



Mr. Joseph B. Moyer
[REDACTED]
Chambersburg, PA 17201-8688

5 Oct '01

OCT 09 2001

Rep. Egolf,

I started my career in education/child care in 1967 (Bedford Area Schools and, later, SSVC) Establishing a framework of consequences for misbehavior is an excellent step forward. Your legislation to that end should be quickly enacted.

I would go further, subsidize homeschoolers. However, again, this is a good first step for the taxpayer.

Yours,

Joe Moyer

file
HB 593

From: [REDACTED]
To: <aegolf@pahousegop.com>, <fdermody@pahouse.net>, <jorie@pasen.gov>, <mcivera@pahousegop.com>, <nmicozzi@pahousegop.com>, <ssaylor@pahousegop.com>, <SSTETLER@pahouse.net>, <tstevens@pahousegop.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 31, 2001 2:11 PM
Subject: Your Oct. 25 Testimony

Dear Rep. Civera

Mr. Henry has shared with the York County Taxpayers Council(YCTC) your Oct. 25 Testimony. YCTC is also gravely concerned about our children receiving better public education.

If we can be so bold, we would like to respectfully request that you revise your list of priorities. We hope and pray that you will tackle education reform first. If you can't do that, then please give the public the right to approve any school tax increase. I am attaching the YCTC Public Education Reform Goals for your immediate consideration. We would appreciate your support of same and enactment now.

Sincerely,
Warren C. Bulette, Pres. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

York County Taxpayers Council(Non Partisan) Public Education Reform Goals

The York County Taxpayers Council would like to respectfully request your support of our public education reform goals because excellent education is so important to our future. We conservatively estimate that implementation of these goals will improve quality which is so necessary. At the same time, PA taxpayers will save \$5 billion annually(about 25%) because public schools will be competitive with private and charter schools in the Commonwealth. This is truly a win win situation that is within our grasp and much needed with the onset of the economic downturn.

Public education reform should be a top priority now because the other industrialized nations of the world, US private schools and US home schools are graduating better educated students(higher quality) at half or less than our present cost. Public schools must be competitive in quality and cost, or over the long run, the US standard of living will decline because business will not be competitive. We will all suffer as high paying jobs dry up. Citizens may not have noticed that we are spending more and learning less ! Spending more money each year, as we have for the past 30 years while quality has declined as measured by standardized tests, is obviously not the answer. Over the 30 year period, the constant dollar cost per student has gone up 70%. Public education cost per student is out of control. These costs have escalated more than twice as fast as inflation. We are not receiving a high enough return on our huge investment.

Instead, we must implement a sea change reform. We must remove politics from public education and do what is best for our nation and our children. We must become quality competitive by achieving the following

goals. Costs will also improve once these goals are implemented.

Additional reform goals may be needed as we progress.

REFORM GOALS

1. Enacting HB 593 to improve parental involvement and responsibility for sending their children to school ready to learn, not to be disciplined. Parents of expelled students would pick up the cost of alternative education(not the taxpayers) or do community service in lieu of paying
2. Placing public schools on essentially the same set of State regulations that private schools operate under now. This will make public schools, that are for all practical purposes a monopoly, more competitive and lessen the need for vouchers and charter schools. Public schools would have to maintain separation of church and state. Private schools would receive no State funding
3. Paying qualified teachers on performance--- the greater the number of students they educate to high standards(taking into account student IQ and socioeconomic differences), the higher their pay, with NO CAP. It is time we pay quality teachers more when they improve student achievement and lower cost by teaching more students. Goal 2 would end among other costly mandates, tenure and the right to strike for public school teachers
4. Protecting teachers and school districts from frivolous suits by defining how a student loses his or her right to a free public education
5. Paying for all public education costs at the local level with a tax on earned income and business profits that can't be increased each year faster than average hourly earnings increase. Approval of any tax increase by a majority of the voters would be needed.
6. State funding of school districts based on a percentage of an annual competitive cost per student developed by the Department of Education assuming quality teachers and maximum class size (sans cost of athletics which is a local cost), adjusted for differences in the local cost of living and average earned income. Districts with a high cost of living and low average earned income would receive more State funding than districts with a low cost of living and high average earned income. School districts that improve performance and lower their cost would be given a significant reward of increased State funding. Each year the annual competitive cost per student would be reviewed by the State for operating efficiencies and increased by no more than the annual increase in average hourly earnings. The State would reimburse the districts for any special education student actual cost over and above the district's regular student annual cost.
7. State making available to school districts its cost saving standardized design for buildings. Old building renovations would be brought up to building code requirements to preserve historical significance. All new buildings and renovations exempt from prevailing wage and subject to majority approval by voters.
8. State holding school districts accountable by having them only report annually actual performance compared to standards and actual annual cost per non special ed student and special ed student
9. Reduce administrative costs by establishing an Intermediate Unit Superintendent and staff organization structure. This organization would set curricula, purchase books, etc. and obviate the need for 501 separate administrations. Building principals would be held accountable to their respective School Boards for quality performance as measured by

standardized tests and cost per student

10. Cyber charter schools agreeing with the home district by April 1 each year of any students transferring to the Cyber School and the tuition amount per student for the next year. The home district would have the right to appeal to the State, any unreasonable tuition

11. To assure fair community representation, at least six School Board directors must have no children in their School District

12. A student transferring from one school to another after the semester has started will have to wait until the new semester starts at the new school to enroll

13. Department of Education helping School Boards to manage costs more effectively by developing a modern cost accounting system that enables the Boards to better evaluate such decisions as new hires, maintenance costs, class sizes, new construction and changes in the curricula

Please contact your State Representative or Senator to inform them of your concerns.

Warren C. Bulette, Pres.
York County Taxpayers Council

CC:



file
HR 593

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Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2001 3:59 PM
Subject: Old HB 1576---- Student Responsibility Law

Dear Elected Officials,

The York County Taxpayers Council(YCTC) is encouraging you to pass HB 1576-- The Student Responsibility Law. We feel that this legislation addresses a key principle for improving educational quality because it will improve parental involvement. Parental Involvement has been the overlooked issue by the General Assembly, in our view.

Certainly you must have noticed that spending more by adding mandates that are not cost effective and beneficial to an already outmoded School Code has not been the answer. Ironically, this strategy has resulted in less learning as indicated by the performance measures. And when you compare the cost per student in local private schools, local home schools, local for profit schools, and foreign schools and their performance with public schools, it is really sad. This spending strategy mandated by the present School Code has been a waste of the taxpayers money.

YCTC respectfully asks that you give us an estimated date when HB 1576 will be debated on the floor of the House and the Senate. This is one piece of legislation that should not be difficult to pass since the PSEA also supports it.

Thank you in advance,
Warren C. Bulette, Pres.

CC: [REDACTED]

ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER

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HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE

January 11, 2001

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Allan Egoal *AE*

SUBJECT: Reintroduction of Legislation - **Expelled Students** (Previously H.B. 1576)

I am planning to reintroduce legislation that would require parental responsibility for the cost of alternative education of their children who are expelled from the public schools of the Commonwealth. The bill further provides conditions and procedures for the possible readmission of an expelled student, as well as, the education responsibilities of the school district.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Teri Root by Groupwise or by e-mail at troot@pahousegop.com or call 3-1593.

AE/tcr

Prior Cosponsors: FLICK, PLATTS, BUNT, BARRAR, MAITLAND, LYNCH, VANCE, ARMSTRONG, ZUG, STEVENSON, HESS, PHILLIPS, NICKOL, NAILOR, MASLAND, SEYFERT, SCHULER, GIGLIOTTI, HUTCHINSON, CLARK, MARSICO, STERN, READSHAW, FICHTER, S. H. SMITH, RUBLEY, McILHINNEY, HENNESSEY, FAIRCHILD, MAJOR, FORCIER, ROHRER, HERSHEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, SAYLOR, TRUE, STABACK, S. MILLER, BARD, BENNINGHOFF, DeLUCA, RAYMOND, McCALL, R. MILLER, HALUSKA, COLAFELLA, HASAY, BROWNE, CIVERA, HARHAI AND METCALFE,