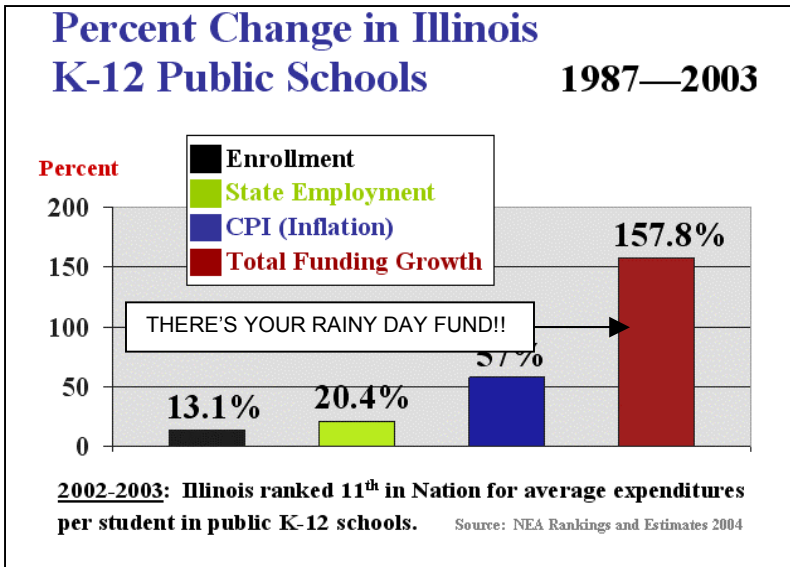


Dear Senator / Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

We were told that HB 755 was back in its coffin for now, but I ***now know*** that Senators Winkel & Meeks were ***fibbing*** about taking it off the agenda. Let me tell you a few other things that I know.

- I know that there is no “funding problem” for schools in Illinois. Speaker Madigan told me so when he put the slide below in his “Budget Presentation.”



- I know that HB755 is a ruse to get billions of new tax dollars flowing into Springfield.
- I know that the money for “property tax relief” will be diverted to the General Fund to pay for pensions and Medicaid Expansion with in 18 to 24 Months.
- I know that without reform of Medicaid, Pensions, and Education spending (particularly in Special Education and Administrative waste), you will need another tax increase of this size very soon.
- I know that the Illinois economy cannot withstand the negative impact of this tax increase, ***IN ANY FORM!*** I know much of the “revenue” HB755 is supposed to raise will be reduced by the collapse in economic activity.

***This tells anyone all they need to know.***

***People thought they were paying for “education!”*** They got unwarranted “end of career bonuses” and unwarranted and unsustainable “early retirement options.”

***People thought they were paying for “education!”*** They got hundreds of millions spent tearing down adequate schools and building expensive & unneeded new ones.

***People thought they were paying for “education!”*** They got an army of Assistant Superintendents and Assistant Principals.

***Using “Education” as a stick to beat the taxpayers isn’t going to work anymore. Not with this graph!***

Most of all, ***I know that you know*** all of the above too. It’s quite a sticky problem, isn’t it? Here are some solutions.

1. Repeal Mandates that cause waste and duplication in education
2. Send home everyone with “Assistant” in his or her title.
3. Tie funding to the Child, not the District.
4. Transfer state funding from districts losing population to those gaining population.

Will these proposals be politically difficult in the ***incestuous and clout-laden*** environment of Illinois politics? Sure it is. But do it anyway. ***Do it “for the Children.”***

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_