

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.24

Senators Theis, Barrett, Victory, VanderWall, Bumstead, Bizon, Daley, Outman, LaSata, MacDonald, Zorn, Johnson and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to change the formula for distributing coronavirus emergency relief
3 funds for schools to allow states to distribute funds on a more
4 equitable basis.

5 Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on
6 schools, students, and teachers across the country. Schools have
7 needed to make significant investments to first ensure all students
8 had equal access to remote learning and then to ensure schools
9 could provide a safe learning environment for students returning to
10 in-person learning; and

11 Whereas, Congress has approved emergency relief funding to

1 assist schools in addressing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2 Under the recent Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental
3 Appropriations Act, 2021, the state of Michigan will receive more
4 than \$1.65 billion. The state must distribute at least \$1.49
5 billion of these funds to local schools, while Congress continues
6 to debate providing even more emergency funding for schools; and

7 Whereas, The current federal formula for distributing
8 emergency relief funding has led to large discrepancies in how much
9 schools receive per pupil. The Elementary and Secondary School
10 Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund), and the earlier ESSER I
11 funding, must be allocated to schools based on the formula under
12 Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
13 1965. Under this complicated formula based on the number of
14 disadvantaged and low-income students and other factors, it is
15 estimated that some school districts in Michigan could receive as
16 little \$51 per pupil while other districts could receive more than
17 \$16,481 per pupil in addition to their foundation allowance; and

18 Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted school systems
19 across the state with unexpected and impossible to plan for
20 expenses. All school systems have needed to invest in technology
21 and equipment to ensure Michigan's children could continue to learn
22 remotely and allow schools to provide a safe environment for
23 students and teachers in the classroom. Schools with more
24 disadvantaged and low-income students have had additional
25 challenges in creating remote and safe in-person learning
26 environments. However, the Title I, Part A formula is an imperfect
27 and inadequate solution that has led to an absurd inequity in the
28 distribution of emergency relief funds; now, therefore, be it

29 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of

1 the United States to change the formula for distributing
2 coronavirus emergency relief funds for schools to allow states to
3 distribute funds on a more equitable basis; and be it further

4 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
5 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
6 States House of Representatives, and the Michigan congressional
7 delegation.