



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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Committees:
House Ways and Means
Telecommunications, Utilities
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Veterans and Federal Affairs

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Brian Dempsey, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Kindergarten Expansion Grants

Dear Chairman Dempsey,

Thank you for the dedication and integrity, which you exhibit on a continuous basis, as you discharge your duties as the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. As you lead the deliberations of the conference committee, I wish to bring to your attention the issue of Kindergarten Expansion Grants.

With the commencement of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget conference committee, which will, ultimately, merge the House and Senate budget exercises into one document, I wish to reiterate the, vitally, important role that Full- Day Kindergarten fulfills in the lives of the citizens that I am privileged to represent. I might add, that the House of Representatives, under your leadership, has demonstrated its' recognition of the great educational benefits that Full-Day Kindergarten generates for students across the Commonwealth. Specifically, these benefits are recognized with the robust financial commitment that the House of Representatives has made to Full-Day Kindergarten in its' version of the FY 2016 budget.

Accordingly, I, respectfully, request that the FY 2016 budget Conference Committee fund line item 7030-1002 at \$18,589,713 as proposed in the House version of the budget. In the aftermath of Governor Baker's 9c cuts, this action will serve to level-fund the Full-Day Kindergarten program at the Fiscal Year 2015 level. As you are well aware, the State Senate funded this, immensely, important line- item at \$1,000,000.

This line-item has fostered a fiscal environment, enabling municipalities to accomplish two outstanding educational goals: first, towns and cities that already have Full-Day Kindergarten are able to augment and improve what is already an indispensable program. Secondly, where only half-day kindergarten exists, these grants provide the necessary resources for expansion to the all-important Full-Day Kindergarten, as you are well aware.

Due to these instrumental Full-Day Kindergarten grants, the percentage of children in the Commonwealth, attending Full-Day Kindergarten, has risen from twenty-nine percent to eighty-eight percent! In short, this is a burgeoning program that will reap enormous dividends in the development of our youngest school-aged children within the Commonwealth. Under your leadership, the sum of \$18,589,713, being what the House of Representatives has agreed upon for line-item 7030-1002, should, ultimately prevail at the conference committee!

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please, do not hesitate to contact me, if you have further questions

Sincerely,

Walter F. Timilty
State Representative
7th Norfolk District

Thank you!