

Date of Hearing & Bill Number: 2/11/21 HF 683

To: Members of the Education Finance Committee

From: Kevin Skwira-Brown

Affiliation (ex. student, parent, advocacy organization): Community Education Equity Advocate

City of Residence: Duluth

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*Please record your written testimony here and return this to sarah.burt@hosue.mn as an OCR compliant .pdf  
(optical character recognition)*

Committee members,

I am writing in support of HF683. I have been a community member and parent active in school equity issues for a number of years and have been aware of what I believe are the unintended consequences of the Base year calculation coinciding with isd709's unusual special education funding levels in 2016. I trust that the design was intended to be fair and as can happen when a single uniform approach is applied broadly, this model has created an ongoing inequity in terms of special education funding. I ask that this committee hear and weigh the evidence I am sure isd709 can and has supplied to understand the scope of the unintended impact on Duluth area students. Please use your ability and responsibility to make our policies work as intended and support this adjustment in the base for isd709.

Thank you,  
Kevin Skwira-Brown