

Editor:

As a member of the Education Funding Reform Committee that drafted SB 1, I am a chief co-sponsor of this proposal, formerly SB 16. Understandably, the original Senate Bill 16 met with significant concern as many suburban school districts stood to lose state funds for education while others stood to gain. In the wake of this concern, the chief sponsor, Senator Andy Manar, (D-Bunker Hill) worked to resolve the more negative aspects of the legislation, the result of which is presently SB 1.

The people of Illinois want to ensure financial support for *all* our school districts. To this end, and in support of SB1, I have introduced SB1260. This plan, in its first year, would provide an increase in state revenue of approximately \$3.4billion. Three quarters of this revenue is earmarked for education. Thus, while SB1 will address the “equity” of school funding, SB1260 will address the “adequacy” of education funding in Illinois.

SB 1260 does this by continuing the income tax rate at 5 percent and increasing the number of services falling under the sales tax. Then, rather than limiting local school district’s ability to draw on local property taxes, SB 1260 provides property tax relief by doubling the property tax credit against household income tax to 10 percent from five percent.

Equitably and *adequately* funding education and other services in Illinois will require revenue. There is no escaping this fact. Please ask your state senator and state representative to support *both* SB1 *and* SB1260. Once passed, our state’s finances will, at long last, be on the road to recovery. This is the contemporary moral issue of our time in Illinois. And it calls to each of us.

For more information on these and other issues before the Illinois General Assembly please visit my legislative website at www.SenatorNoland.com.

Michael Noland