

Horkan, Dylan

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**From:** Hediger, Amy <ahediger@rsu16.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** Rafferty, Joe; Libby, Jim; Pierce, Teresa; Murphy, Kelly; Bagshaw, Barbara; Brennan, Michael; Carlow, Nathan; Crockett, Ed; Dodge, Jan; Haggan, Kimberly; Lyman, Sheila; Mitchell, Christina; Sargent, Holly; Cmte EDU  
**Subject:** Support Needed for L.D. 193 – Funding for Homeless Students

**This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.**

Dear Committee On Education and Cultural Affairs,

I write to you today with both deep empathy for the hardships faced by our homeless families and a strong sense of responsibility for ensuring our district can continue to meet their needs. As superintendent, I take great pride in the work we do to support every student, but I must also balance this commitment with the financial realities of a budget that required three attempts to pass.

Our transportation department works tirelessly to coordinate services, but ongoing staffing shortages make it impossible to meet all the demands. To bridge this gap, we made the difficult decision to contract with an outside transportation service. While this ensures students can get to school, the cost is staggering—\$91 per student, one way, per day. By the end of the year, we will equate to \$68,000 to transport just four children. This unanticipated expense is equivalent to funding a full-time position in our district, and it is simply unsustainable.

The financial strain of supporting homeless students is growing, and without additional resources, it will only become harder to meet their needs. L.D. 193 offers a critical solution by creating a new 0.5 weighted count in the EPS Funding Formula specifically for homeless students. This adjustment would provide essential funding to help districts like ours cover the unexpected but necessary costs of transportation and other vital services.

I urge you to support L.D. 193 to ensure that all students, regardless of their housing situation, have access to the education they deserve—without placing an unsustainable burden on already stretched district budgets. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Maine's students.

Sincerely,

Amy Hediger  
Superintendent, RSU 16

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Amy Hediger, Superintendent  
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