***EXAMPLE OF LOCAL TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE FUND OUR FUTURE RESOLUTION***

**TESTIMONY BY CHRISTINE MULRONEY, PRESIDENT OF THE FRAMINGHAM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FUND OUR FUTURE INITIATIVE**

Thank you for this opportunity to address the School Committee.

I am Christine Mulroney, president of the Framingham Teachers Association.

I am here tonight out of deep concern about the ability of Framingham Public Schools to meet the needs of all of the students we educate.

My concern stems from the fact that Framingham Public Schools, like school districts across the Commonwealth, have been severely underfunded for many years.

A bipartisan commission determined in 2015 that Massachusetts public schools are underfunded by $1 billion annually because the formula used to calculate state aid to schools has not been properly revised or updated.

The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center calculated what districts would receive if the formula used to determine Chapter 70 aid to schools — using the recommendations of the commission that studied school funding — were brought up to date.

Framingham Public Schools would receive an additional $15.9 million annually if the so-called Foundation Budget were fully funded.

Imagine what we could do if we had nearly $16 million more each year to budget for our students!

We could reduce class sizes. We could bolster social and emotional support for students. We could enhance professional development. We could make sure every classroom had sufficient supplies. We could do more for our English learners. We could find new opportunities for our accelerated learners.

We could do all of these things and more.

The Legislature failed to take any action to begin the process of updating the Foundation Budget formula, even though various proposals to do so were under consideration during the previous legislative session.

Our students can no longer wait for their public schools to be fully funded in the manner that they were intended to be when the Foundation Budget was created in 1993. It was created to ensure that all students have access to the education they deserve.

That is why I am asking you to pass this resolution calling on the Legislature to implement a fully funded Foundation Budget.

Please join your colleagues on school committees across the state that have already passed such a resolution, and together we can send a powerful message to Beacon Hill.

Thank you.