

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2023

Governor Glenn Youngkin
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin,

On behalf of the public school divisions we represent in Congress, we write to you regarding the error your administration made, resulting in a \$201 million budget shortfall for school districts across the Commonwealth.

In December 2022, your administration became aware that the online tool school districts across the Commonwealth use to determine the amount of state funding they will receive was inaccurate. Weeks later, on January 27, 2023, superintendents were notified of this oversight and that the tool they had been using for six months to establish their budgets had overestimated state assistance.

As Representatives for families in rural and suburban parts of Virginia, we are concerned about the adverse impact of this mistake on parents and students in our districts. Rural and low-income school divisions rely more heavily on state (rather than local) funding, meaning every missing dollar will be harder to find.

Additionally, suburban school districts we represent are contending with losses in the millions. These dollars were budgeted to address learning loss, support teacher recruitment and retention, repair school infrastructure, provide mental health support for students, and more. Realizing this funding does not exist deals a serious blow to schools already trying their best to support students, educators, and parents.

To ensure our shared constituencies receive the support they need in responding to this mistake, we strongly encourage your administration to communicate clearly and often with school board officials, relay your plan for mitigating the budget shortfall, and provide additional guidance to schools. We also request that you provide a briefing to Virginia's Congressional Delegation on how this error will be remedied.

While it is understandable that mistakes can happen, school districts deserve the utmost transparency from your administration. The next few weeks and months will be critical to reassuring schools, students, and parents that the Commonwealth is handling this issue expeditiously.

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Sincerely,



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress