

As a concerned citizen and education advocate, I'm writing to express my deep concerns about the delayed increase in public school funding tied to a voucher proposal and the issue of education savings accounts (ESAs). Additionally, I'm alarmed by recent developments within our school district, Spring Branch ISD, where a significant budget cut of \$35 million has been proposed, affecting critical aspects such as school choice, school autonomy, teachers, and support staff.

Our community firmly believes that ESAs should only receive public funds if an equitable amount is provided for each public school student, along with rigorous accountability measures. This is crucial for safeguarding the integrity and fairness of our public education system. However, the simultaneous budget cuts that threaten school choice, school autonomy, and our dedicated educators further compound the challenges our students face.

The success of our students and our state's future prosperity rely on adequate resources for our public schools. With a surplus in our state budget, now is the ideal time to prioritize increased funding for public education, particularly when our school district is grappling with the detrimental consequences of a \$35 million reduction.

Moreover, investing in public schools can create an environment that attracts businesses and ensures long-term economic growth for our state. A well-funded education system not only prepares our youth for success but also strengthens our communities and supports economic development. The budget cut, however, threatens to undermine our education system, causing ripple effects on our local economy.

I urge you to consider the urgent need for increased public education funding in our state. Let's use our surplus to prioritize our students, communities, and Texas's economic prosperity. This demonstrates our commitment to protecting our public education system and ensuring that our school districts across the state remain strong and supportive of quality education.