

**Support the Senate version of the State budget bill or it will be worse for you, says a legislator.**

The Governor's budget proposal is inadequate for school districts. The House version is likewise inadequate. The Senate version is also inadequate. A Senate leader has said to public education lobbyists: Support the Senate version or it will get worse.

Legislators who do not respect their responsibility to meet the Constitution's mandate to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools have always solicited support for their inadequate funding proposals by threatening public school advocates.

I well remember during the DeRolph school funding litigation era that I was summoned to the Statehouse to review a version of the State budget. I stated it was grossly inadequate. The response was "either support this or it will get worse." Same thing happened often during my tenure with the Ohio Department of Education.

Legislators put public school district representatives and advocates on the spot by asking them to choose between 2 inadequate versions of a state budget. It would be inappropriate for one to support either inadequate versions. Legislators, being in a power position, often relish trying to intimidate public school advocates.

The EdChoice voucher litigation is necessary because state officials continue to prioritize voucher funding to the severe detriment of public school funding.