



State Senator

DAVID KNEZEK

Democratic Caucus Chair

February 2, 2016

Chair Pavlov:

I am writing you today in order to ask that you consider holding a hearing on Senate Bills 713, 714, and 715 in a Detroit Public School building. This package of bills is in direct response to the so-called "sick outs" staged by some educators and students in the district who sought to, and succeeded in, bringing attention to the abhorrent conditions present in many school buildings across the City of Detroit.

While the media has done significant work in shedding light on this situation, the simple fact that a bill package exists that seeks to punish these whistleblowers is evidence that many of our colleagues would rather penalize educators than solve the root cause of their protests. It is my hope that exposing committee members to the conditions that these students and teachers are forced to endure on a daily basis will enlighten our decision-making process.

This request is not without precedent. As you and others on this committee can attest, we often leave Lansing in order to take part in committee hearings across our state. I cannot think of a greater opportunity to visit one of these schools so that we may get a glimpse for ourselves of the conditions in the Detroit Public School system and better understand the reasons they deemed these actions necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to working with you and other members of our committee.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Darwin Booher
Senator Marty Knollenberg
Senator Patrick Colbeck
Committee Clerk Leta Howard