

Testimony of Brannndon D. Jackson

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. I am here to present on the Income Tax -Credit for Parent and Guardian Volunteers in Elementary and Secondary School Schools SB0198.

There are six primary types of parental engagement, and everything else branches off these six concepts:

1. Communication between parents and teachers/administration
2. Volunteer opportunities with the school or school functions
3. Role in the academic decision-making process
4. At-home learning and development
5. Community collaboration
6. Parenting

These functions of engagement are critical for every scholar as they matriculate through academia. Research shows when the community is involved:

1. Positive impact on academic achievement
2. Safer schools and communities
3. Students feel emotionally supported.
4. Mitigate bullying.
5. Increase accountability for students, staff, and the administration, to name a few.

Parental engagement is the marquee indicator for success in every school system, and every constituent should be afforded the opportunity to leverage it regardless of their level of income.

Today, as we work to stabilize the economy and combat inflation, everyday citizens feel the tightening of their purse strings. And parents call me to express their dilemma: to either forego wages or engage in school activities.

This is a horrible situation to be in. This bill is a step in the right direction. Giving parents the opportunity to supplement foregone wages from volunteering will be a tremendous step in helping to stabilize our community.

Every child should have the appropriate infrastructure to support their academic future. We make that possible by helping to level the playing field with this piece of legislation.

Parental engagement should always be a question of willingness, not affordability.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB0198

