



Florida School Boards Association

The voice of education in Florida.

Andrea Messina
Executive Director
Tallahassee

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Dear Chair McClain:

The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) is strongly opposed to HJR 1461, as it would narrow the focus on the members of our community who have the ability to serve without compensation.

Similar to our constitutionally elected peers, Florida's school board members are traditionally compensated for their time, the liabilities and high-levels of accountability that come with the budget oversight responsibility they encounter serving in this very important civic role.

The complex nature of Florida's school districts requires school board members to spend extensive time researching issues, gathering input from constituents, meeting with their district, and more. Additionally, school board members spend a great amount of time attending graduations, school events, meeting with students and families, etc. This time pulls school board members from their businesses, their places of employment, and their families.

HJR 1461 is not good for Florida's academic future, as it would remove the checks and balances in place that help to ensure all citizens have the equal opportunity to serve on our school boards and be a voice for our students in our communities across Florida.

Our Florida school board members are a key investment in the success of Florida's students. This last year in response to the pandemic, our school board members proved their commitment to the families, students, and employees in their districts by ensuring safe, high-quality education opportunities were afforded to all. School boards led their districts with flexibility and responsiveness during a very challenging time with the goal always being to make decisions that are best for our students and families.

As we continue down the road of academic recovery, we encourage you to oppose HJR 1461 and continue to allow our hardworking constitutionally elected school board members to be compensated for the service they provide for the betterment of Florida's academic future.

Thank you for your time and service to the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

Andrea Messina
Executive Director

The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.

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