

AOE Testimony: H.426 Senate Proposal of Amendment

Testimony To: House Committee on Education

Respectfully Submitted by: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education

Date: May 12, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Senate Proposal of Amendment to H.426, an act relating to addressing the needs and conditions of public school facilities in the State. As promised during my oral testimony, I offer the following written feedback for the committee. The primary focus of this bill should be improving school facilities in the context of managing COVID-19 recovery, and ensuring that any activities associated with ESSER funds are allowable.

Section by Section Feedback

For the committee's convenience, please find section by section commentary below:

Section 1

Looks good, no concerns.

Section 2

We do not support this initiative, as it is beyond the scope of [Education Recovery](#).

Section 3 (inventory and assessment)

We support the inventory, but do not support the assessment, as it is beyond the scope of recovery. It is also unclear if this would be an allowable use of ESSER funds.

Section 8 (Bid Requirements)

This is similar/the same as an initiative I proposed earlier this session. We support.

Section 9 (Safety and Health Projects)

This is similar/the same as an initiative I proposed earlier this session. We support.

Section 10 (State Emergency Management Program)

Upon further review we do not support this provision, as it is beyond the scope of Education Recovery. We also do not believe that BGS is the right entity to be engaged in school facilities work.

Section 11 (Efficiency Grants)

Upon further review we do not support this provision, as it is beyond the scope of Education Recovery.