

Town of Franklin

Town Administrator
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355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352

June 4, 2019

Honorable Karen E Spilka
Senate President
Room 332, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Rebecca Rausch
State Senator
Room 218, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Jeffrey N. Roy
State Representative
Room 43, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Franklin Legislative Delegation:

We write on behalf of the Town of Franklin and the Franklin Public Schools to urge your support of the Massachusetts' Senate budget for FY 20. The Senate budget provides Franklin with additional support over the proposals from the State House of Representatives and Governor Baker. Notably, the Senate budget provides for:

- An increase in Chapter 70 aid by \$167,280
- \$999,079 in Charter tuition reimbursement, an increase of \$641,833 compared to the House proposal
- Full funding of Circuit Breaker at 75%

Additionally, the Senate's budget includes support for community projects in Franklin, which includes \$58,000 for substance abuse prevention, \$50,000 for vaping detection and prevention, and \$25,000 to support the Franklin Downtown Partnership. Each of these community investments, which have been difficult to support through the regular operating budget, bring important services to the students of Franklin Public Schools and residents of the Town of Franklin.

Additionally, we support the appropriation in the House budget for \$100,000 for a new parking lot in the Franklin State Forest to be able to help give trail access into the State Forest as well as the Southern New England Trunk Trainline system just up Grove Street.

We cannot emphasize the importance of adopting the provisions in the Senate budget relative to education funding and local aid. As it has been well publicized, the Town of Franklin has just begun reducing its services and staff in the school district and will likely face a substantial override next year. The Senate budget will help Franklin maintain many core services for this upcoming fiscal year, or we will almost certainly have to face additional reductions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jamie Hellen".
Jamie Hellen
Town Administrator

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sara E. Ahern".
Sara E. Ahern, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Town Council, Town of Franklin
Franklin School Committee