

May 12, 2025 at Massachusetts State House

## Joint Committee on Education Hearing on An Act to fix the Chapter 70 inflation adjustment

**Lead Sponsors: Rep. Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield) | Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester)**

[H.678](#) | [S.388](#)

### **Testimony in Support of Bill H.678 / Senate 388: Adequate Chapter 70 Funding for Taunton Public Schools**

My name is Denise McGuirk. I teach English at Taunton High School and serve as the President of the Taunton Education Association. I speak today on behalf of my students, my colleagues, and the broader Taunton school community in strong support of **Bill H.678 / Senate 388, “An Act to fix the Chapter 70 inflation adjustment”** and the urgent need for increased Chapter 70 funding.

Currently, our district is facing a facilities crisis. Taunton High School houses grades 8 through 12, a move made out of necessity rather than sound educational planning. Since incorporating the 8th grade into the high school, our school has been bursting at the seams. We are over capacity and under-resourced.

This overcrowding affects our students' learning environment and our teachers' ability to provide high-quality instruction. Teachers are now forced to share classrooms. This means that during their preparation periods—crucial time for planning, grading, and student support—they have no dedicated space. This disrupts workflow, undermines instructional quality, and diminishes morale.

Taunton students deserve better. They deserve classrooms that are not overcrowded, teachers who have space and resources to plan effective lessons, and schools that support—not hinder—their success.

Currently, the Taunton Public Schools are set to receive an 11.03% increase in Chapter 70 funding, totaling approximately **\$10.47 million**. While this is a welcome and necessary step, it does not fully address the ongoing needs in our district. If Bill H.678 passes, it would result in an **additional \$3.3 million** in funding for Taunton—and this number would **continue to grow over time** as the funding formula is adjusted to reflect true student and community needs. Adequate and equitable Chapter 70 funding would allow us to address these infrastructure deficits and ensure all students receive the education they are promised under the Massachusetts Constitution. Bill H.678 / Senate 388 is not just a funding bill—it is a lifeline for districts like ours.

With this funding, we could begin to address overcrowding, improve infrastructure, and ensure that both students and teachers have the resources and space they need to thrive.

Chapter 70 funding is the foundation of public education in Massachusetts. Without full and fair implementation, communities like Taunton are left behind.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation and invest in the future of every student in our city.

Denise McGuirk [M.Ed](#)  
TEA President  
THS English Teacher