



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### **Public Official Threatens Legal Action to Silence Teachers**

PHOENIX – On October 19, 2018, Great Schools Now received a [“cease and desist” letter from state senator Kate Brophy McGee](#), threatening legal action regarding published material asserting that Senator Brophy McGee has voted to cut \$1.2 billion from Arizona public schools.

We stand by the facts that Brophy McGee cut \$1.2 billion from education funding during her tenure as state legislator. We will not be bullied and threatened with legal action to silence our voices when we are standing up for Arizona’s students.

“It is incomprehensible that Kate Brophy McGee would threaten to sue to silence teachers over information that is public record,” says Great Schools Now Treasurer, Doug Kilgore. “What is she trying to hide from voters?”

Below is legislation Kate Brophy McGee voted on that cut over \$1.2 billion from our students and rather than explain her voting record to constituents, she is threatening legal action to cover it up.

The fact is, Kate Brophy McGee cut over \$3 billion during her tenure in the legislature and has only restored \$985.1 million. She’s over \$2 billion short from restoring her own cuts. It is disappointing that rather than explain her voting record, Brophy McGee chose to bully teachers. She has left a legacy of overcrowded classrooms and a massive teacher exodus due to her votes to cut over \$1.2 billion from our public schools.

**2011 session: 2011-2012 fiscal year budget (budget passed on April 1, 2011 and was signed into law on April 6, 2011)**

From the 50th Legislature, First Regular Session

- SB1612 general appropriations 2011-2012
- SB1614 state budget procedures; 2011-2012 (this is the bill that shifted the ASRS contribution rate from a 50/50 split to employees paying 53%)
- SB1617 K-12 education 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

Here are the budget cuts that Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” on by approving SB1612, SB1614, and SB1617:

- Continued no funding for school inflation costs - \$220.8 million
- Soft capital cut - \$188.1 million
- Capital Outlay Revenue Limit (CORL) cut - \$63.9 million
- Begin phase out of Career Ladder program (performance pay program for teachers—impacted about 1/3 of all Arizona teachers in the quarter of districts who were grandfathered to have this program)- \$14.5 million
- Eliminated funding for 9th graders for JTEDs - cut of \$29.8 million
- JTEDs funded at only 91% - cut of \$5.5 million
- Reduced charter school additional assistance - \$7.7 million
- No funding of the Building Renewal formula - \$241.6 million (but provided \$11.5 million in grants for the entire state, so this cut should really reflect \$230.1 million cut)
- Shifted retirement cost to employees by making them pay 53% of retirement versus the 50% employee/50% employer split

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving SB1612, SB1614, and SB1617 for a total funding cut of \$742.1 million.**

**2012 session: 2012-2013 fiscal year budget (budget passed on May 1, 2012 and was signed into law on May 7, 2012)**

From the 50th Legislature, Second Regular Session

- SB1523 general appropriations; 2012-2013
- SB1529 K-12 education; budget reconciliations; 2012-2013

Here are the budget cuts that Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” on by approving both SB1523 and SB1529:

- Continued no funding for school inflation costs - \$310.3 million

- Soft capitol cut - \$158.1 million
- Capital Outlay Revenue Limit (CORL) cut - \$80.9 million
- Continued phase out of Career Ladder program (performance pay program for teachers—impacted about 1/3 of all Arizona teachers in the quarter of districts who were grandfathered to have this program)- \$8.1 million
- JTEDs funded at only 91% - cut of \$5.8 million
- No funding of the Building Renewal formula - \$248.9 million (but provided \$11.5 million in grants for the entire state, so this cut should really reflect \$237.4 million cut)

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving both SB1523 and SB1529 for a total funding cut of \$800.6 million.**

**2013 session: 2013-2014 fiscal year budget (budget passed on June 13, 2013 and signed into law on June 17, 2013 during the First Special Session of the 51st Legislature)**

From the 51st Legislature, First Special Session

- HB2001 general appropriations bill
- HB2003 K-12 budget reconciliation bill

Here are the budget cuts that Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” on by approving both HB2001 and HB2003 (again, these are from the First Special Session of the 51st Legislature):

- Cut to District Additional Assistance - \$239 million (this new formula combined the soft capital and the capital outlay revenue limit and retained the previous year’s 56% suspension)
- Continued phase out of Career Ladder program (performance pay program for teachers—impacted about 1/3 of all Arizona teachers in the quarter of districts who were grandfathered to have this program)- \$7.1 million
- JTEDs funded at only 91% - cut of \$4.2 million (but exempted small JTEDs from the cut)
- Eliminated Building Renewal formula entirely (cut of \$260m) and replaced with a \$17m statewide grant program.

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving both HB2001 and HB2003 for a total funding cut of \$493.3 million.**

**2014 session: 2014-2015 fiscal year budget—Passed by the Arizona House and Senate on April 7, 2014 and signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer on April 11, 2014.**

From the 51st Legislature. Second Regular Session

From the 51st Legislature; Second Regular Session

- HB2703 general appropriations bill
- HB2711 higher education reconciliation (had the district sponsored charter school reduction language in this budget bill)
- SB1488 K-12 budget reconciliation bill

SB1488 continued the cut to the District Additional Assistance - \$239 million. HB2711 also began the phase out of district sponsored charter schools so that their final year of operation was 2014-2015 school year. Note: SB1488 also provided \$21.5 in performance funding for schools .

Brophy McGee voted "yes" on HB2703 and HB2711 and voted "no" on SB1488. SB1488 was passed on March 27, 2014, but the rest of the budget was not passed until April 7, 2014.

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving HB2703 and HB2711 for a total funding cut of \$239 million.**

**In the 2015 session, Brophy McGee voted "no" on the education budget bills**, so we did not count this cut against her. In this budget bill for the FY2015-2016 budget, the legislature cut District Additional Assistance an additional \$113.5 million for a total overall loss of \$352.4 million which should be funded to this formula. The budget imposed current year funding for school districts (estimated loss of \$40 million). It also prohibited school districts from sponsoring charter schools.

**Again, Brophy McGee voted "no" on the education budget bill in 2015.**

**2016 session: 2016-2017 fiscal budget (budget passed on May 3, 2016 and signed into law on May 10, 2016 during the 52nd Legislature, Second Regular Session)**

From the 52nd Legislature; Second Regular Session

- HB2695 general appropriations; 2016-2017
- HB2707 K-12 education; budget reconciliation; 2016-2017

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving both HB2695 and HB2707, which cut District Additional Assistance by \$352.4 million.**

**2017 session: 2017-2018 fiscal budget (budget passed on May 4, 2017 and signed into law on May 12, 2017 during the 53rd Legislature, First Regular Session)**

From the 53rd Legislature; First Regular Session

- SB1522 general appropriations; 2017-2018
- HB2545 K-12 education; budget reconciliation; 2017-2018

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving both SB1522 and HB2545, which continued the funding cut to District Additional Assistance by \$352.4 million.**

**2018 session: 2018-2019 fiscal budget (budget passed on May 3, 2018 and signed into law on May 3, 2018 during the 53rd Legislature, Second Regular Session)**

From the 53rd Legislature; Second Regular Session

- SB1520 general appropriations; 2018-2019
- HB2663 K-12 education; budget reconciliation; 2018-2019

**Kate Brophy McGee voted “yes” by approving both SB1520 and HB2663, which only restored funding cuts to District Additional Assistance by \$100 million, maintaining a \$252.4 million cut.**

Kate Brophy McGee has voted “yes” to approve **\$3.23 BILLION in funding cuts to K-12 Education during her tenure in the Arizona Legislature.** During her time as a legislator, Senator Brophy McGee has only restored \$985.1 MILLION in revenue for schools. That **leaves Arizona public schools with \$2.25 BILLION less than when the Senator started her legislative career in 2011.**

## **FUNDING RESTORED**

2012: \$40 million new K3 reading program

2013: \$2.4 million performance funding

2014: \$21.5 million performance funding

2016: \$166.7 million Prop 123

2017: \$205 million 1% pay raise, building renewal, new school construction

2018: \$549.5 million teacher pay, district additional assistance, new school construction and building renewal

**TOTAL FUNDING RESTORED DURING TENURE: \$985.1 MILLION**