TO: The Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Senate
FROM: Concerned organizations
DATE: November 16, 2015
RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 76

We, the undersigned organizations representing advocates for education, combating hunger, the business, manufacturing, legal and banking communities, religious institutions and clergy, school districts and administrators, among many others, are opposed to Senate Bill 76. The roots of our objections are as diverse and varied as the constituencies we represent, reflecting a broad range of concerns and perspectives. We are united, however, in our opposition to passage of this legislation.

Senate Bill 76 calls for a fundamental re-organization of Pennsylvania’s taxation and educational systems. The potential negative consequences that could result from the implementation of Senate Bill 76 are vast, and many significant questions remain unanswered. In light of these uncertainties and significant risks, the organizations listed below respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 76.

We recognize that school property taxes are a genuine concern for many across the Commonwealth, and we will continue to offer our expertise and assistance to develop a responsible approach to address concerns where it is most needed, using sustainable and proven strategies.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools
Allies for Children
American Federation of Teachers, Pennsylvania
American Institute of Architects Pennsylvania
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
Chester County Food Bank
Coalition Against Hunger
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County
Education Law Center of Pennsylvania
Education Voters of Pennsylvania
Feeding Pennsylvania
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Hunger-Free Pennsylvania
Insurance Agents & Brokers of Pennsylvania
Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania
Just Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger
Keystone Progress
Keystone State Education Coalition
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
Manufacturer and Business Association
Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association
NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference
National Federation of Independent Business
Pennsylvania Association for Justice
Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials
Pennsylvania Bankers Association
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center
Pennsylvania Business Council
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Coalition to End Homelessness
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Credit Union Association
Pennsylvania Defense Institute
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Pennsylvania Independent Automobile Dealers Association
Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Pennsylvania Manufacturers’ Association
Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association
Pennsylvania Principals Association
Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association
Pennsylvania Retailers’ Association
Pennsylvania School Boards Association
Philadelphia Bar Association
Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
POWER (Philadelphiaans Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild)
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
The Public Interest Law Center