

Date: February 17, 2005
To: Members of the House Subcommittee on Education Finance Structures
From: Representative Bill Fromhold, Chair, House Subcommittee on Education Finance Structures
Subject: **Student Transportation Funding Structure**

The interim House K-12 Finance Workgroup concluded, among other things, that our student transportation funding formula should be examined in more depth. Given the short time frame that this Subcommittee had to look at a number of different education finance issues, we were not able to follow up on this recommendation. Consequently, the legislature should direct the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee (JLARC) to review our student transportation funding formulas and make recommendations on potential changes to those formulas.

I asked the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide us with specific questions that such a study should address. You will find their response attached to this memo.

I offer the following as a starting point for discussions on proviso language:

The Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee shall review the current state pupil transportation funding formula and evaluate the extent to which the formula captures the costs of providing pupil transportation for basic education programs. Based on the results of this evaluation, the study shall develop alternative formulas for allocating state funding to school districts for the transportation of students for basic education programs. The alternative formulas shall take into account the legislative definition of basic education programs, promote the efficient use of state and local resources, and allow local district control over the management of pupil transportation systems. In addition, the study will review the funding mechanisms used by other states and identify best practices.