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HOUSE BILL 4126: IMPROVMENTS TO INVEST IN KIDS

House Bill 4126 makes two changes to the Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program: a super-priority designation and a path for more flexible scholarship amounts.

SUPER-PRIORITY

- First, and most important, the bill grants first-priority status to scholarship applicants who are current scholarship holders and remain eligible. In effect, this creates a “super priority” status for those students already in the program. This change is important to the program, the school, and most importantly, the student.
 - “Super-priority status” provides security to student scholarship holders by ensuring they may continue to attend the school they chose when first entering the program.
 - By granting these students a practical guarantee to continue in the program, schools then have expanded opportunity to ensure the student’s academic growth and maintain a consistent and reliable curriculum throughout grade levels.
 - For Scholarship Granting Organizations, the application process will become streamlined, easier to administer, and will have the effect of making it easier for all families to access and submit applications.

PARTIAL-SCHOLARSHIPS

- Second, the bill allows participating schools to set an alternative scholarship amount for applicants whose income is below 185% of federal poverty level as long as it does not exceed the necessary cost and fees of attendance at that school.
 - The existing law sets the scholarship amounts for applicants in this income group at 100% of necessary costs and fees. This change would allow a school to lower that amount if conditions warranted.
 - No school will be required to set an alternative amount.
 - We hope this change could lead to the expansion of available scholarships – for which there is great demand – by more accurately matching available scholarship dollars with the needs of applying families.

PLEASE SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 4126!