

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 10, 2017**

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**Legislature, School Districts Avoid ‘Levy Cliff’**

*School superintendents express relief over short-term levy solution*

**OLYMPIA** — The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) applauded efforts by the Legislature to resolve the school-funding “levy cliff,” so districts could more accurately budget for the 2017-18 school year.

Bill Keim, WASA executive director for the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), said the quick action Wednesday by the Senate and Thursday in the House will temporarily relieve tensions for school districts which are currently in the process of writing next year’s budgets.

“The passage of Senate Bill 5023 comes as a great relief to schools and districts all across Washington who are in the process of trying to plan for the upcoming school year,” said Keim. “This was an imminent crisis that needed to be resolved, and for right now, that crisis has been averted. But we still have the bigger issue of McCleary to solve this session, a hurdle that remains the most pressing challenge of the legislative session.”

“It is our hope that now that this emergency measure is resolved, lawmakers can resume their focus on the larger challenge of amply and equitably funding public education in our state.”

Currently, school districts can raise up to 28 percent of their levy base through local property taxes. The levy base reflects the amount of money districts receive in state and federal funds. Absent SB 5023, a “levy cliff” would have been created in 2018 when, under current law, the percentage would be pared back to 24 percent. Additionally, current state funding for Local Effort Assistance to property poor districts would have been reduced from 14 percent to 12 percent.

On Wednesday, the Senate finally coalesced around Senate Bill 5023 by a vote of 48-1. The House took up the measure early Thursday, approving it 87-10.

***About the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA):***

*WASA (*[*www.wasa-oly.org*](http://www.wasa-oly.org)*) is a non-profit organization committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful, valuable training support, and resources. WASA also strives to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. Membership is open to education administrators in Washington state.*

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