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Too many cuts to education

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Editor, Casa Grande Dispatch:

Last Saturday's Dispatch featured an article by staff writer Mark Cowling highlighting voter support for school funding issues in Arizona. The very first sentence in the piece should have been in letters 10 feet tall and in neon lights: "Since 2009 the state has cut more than \$4.5 billion from public education"!

Virtually all of that money has gone to the wealthiest individuals and corporations via income tax cuts and unaudited loopholes and credits. When you add in the tax cuts those same individuals will enjoy thanks to an expansion of school vouchers, the shortage of public education funding in our state will become far worse.

By allowing our state government, controlled entirely by the GOP, to abdicate its constitutional requirement, voters are pushing the burden ever more heavily on working families. Local sales and property tax increases along with overrides and the like are not only economically inefficient but co-sign a fiscal policy keeping high earners from having to pay their fair share.

I believe that the vast majority of Arizonans favor a fully funded, high-quality public education system. We need a state governor and legislators that are committed to tax policies that provide for that by making sure we do, in fact, all pay our fair share!

Ralph Atchue

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