

letters to the editor

Businesses gain; seniors and schools lose under Snyder's plan

The budget proposed by Gov. Snyder is designed to see that businesses of great wealth add to it. It provides almost \$2 billion in tax breaks for Michigan businesses. Where will he find this windfall? By taxing Grandma's and Grandpa's pensions and cutting public schools by \$470 a student.

Will residents take time to contact their Michigan legislators to let them know they oppose this greed or are they too lazy to do anything?

This "granny tax" takes money from retirees on fixed incomes and gives it to businesses. These retirees spend that money on necessities and put it back into circulation.

The schools have been cut nearly every year in the past 10 years. We hold them accountable to "No Child Left Behind" and then take away their funding.

We are supposed to believe business will use this windfall to provide jobs. Remember how our taxes were spent on bail-outs for big banks? We were told banks would put that money into circulation, advancing our economy. In reality, they paid huge bonuses to their executives, who lost our money and then locked it up in the vault after tightening credit

requirements. Our tax money went deep into their pockets.

Gov. Snyder's plan is similar: Tax Granny's pension, cut school funding, create winners and losers. It's reverse Robin Hood. Steal from the poor and give to the rich.

We have 2,204 retired school employees receiving pensions in Monroe County. The average yearly pension is \$16,835. State police and firefighters have similar pensions.

AARP of Michigan says that Snyder has declared war on senior citizens with this budget. A Detroit Free Press poll last week stated that Snyder's popularity fell from 55 percent to 44 percent with this budget proposal.

Residents should call their legislators today and tell them to stop picking on Granny's pension and the schools (Sen. Randy Richardville, 517-373-0927; Rep. Dale Zorn, 517-373-2617; Rep. Rick Olson, 517-373-1792). Callers should tell them this is not "shared sacrifice."

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