

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members of the School Committee:

My name is Charlie Foskett, Town Meeting Member from Precinct 8 and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee.

In 1991, with John Bilafer, I launched the rebuilding of our school system infrastructure;

In 2000, Dennis Sullivan, Jack Hurd and I secured your support for the Rebuild Debt Exclusion;

In 2005, Jeff Thielman, Diane Mahon and I secured your support for the largest override in the state;

all because we supported the education of Arlington's children.

Chairman Bill Hayner, Treasurer Steve Gilligan and I now ask your support for No CPA Tax under Ballot Question #5 in November, because we support the education of Arlington's children.

The CPA tax is a massive slush fund, **with no identified line-item purpose**, serving third parties - not Arlington's Community Safety, Education, Public Works and Social Services. Its alleged reimbursement is an under-funded, doomed Ponzi scheme that has woefully missed its targets for the past six years.

The minimum CPA tax cost to taxpayers is \$8 million diverted to the slush fund. Over the 30 year bonding period for a new Arlington high school, this diversion is \$88 million. \$88 million taken from voters that could be used for living expenses, college education or 401(k) plans. This tax is fiscal irresponsibility on a scale unknown in the history of Arlington. It may well cause the AHS Project to fail!

Supporting this reckless referendum **jeopardizes the rebuilding of the High School and the operating override** that you and I know the School and Town will require within 5 years!

Taxpayers defeated two AHS referenda in 1975, overrides in 1987 and 1989, and again in 1997, the first \$50 million debt exclusion for our elementary schools was defeated. The 2004 override was defeated. My message: Arlington voters will not be happy with an \$88 million slush fund diversion that threatens their core services and the education of their children.

I ask each of you to vote **No** on the CPA Tax and to take a Committee vote recommending the same to Arlington taxpayers.

Your charge, the education of our children, is now at risk. If the \$88 million slush fund passes, what will you tell the parents of our students when an override fails and you have to cut services? What will you say when a voter asks you why you supported this travesty? What will you say to an eighth grader looking at an aged high school that has lost its accreditation? What will you tell her?

Thank you.