

# Kitsap Sun

**LETTERS | Opinion** *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

## Levy failure only hurts students

**Mike Neiner, Port Orchard**

Published 8:15 a.m. PT Feb. 2, 2021

If there ever was a levy that was critical for our youth, the South Kitsap levy on the ballot this month is the one. Our kids have paid a huge price to do their part in this pandemic recovery. Their lives in almost all respects have been shut down for almost a year. In my opinion, their plight has been defined by injustice. Kids can't vote and because of that, they paid heavily the last year.

If there is to be any real semblance of a return to a fully functional educational environment for these kids, this levy needs to pass. Our kids have fallen behind many of their contemporaries in a myriad of ways. Washington state's lockdowns have been some of the most severe in the country and our youth haven't had one break from any of it. Everything in their lives were completely cancelled or altered so massively that it isn't recognizable.

We can haggle and battle about teachers salaries, smart budgeting, fiscal responsibility until the cows come home. As valid or invalid some of those arguments may be, none of them change how our school systems are currently funded. None of it will change the impact of a levy failure on our youth at this time.

Kids Lives Matter and they need this one.

*Mike Neiner, Port Orchard*