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Governor Shapiro, Legislative Leaders Actively Opposing Court-Ordered Education Improvements

HARRISBURG, PA – Pennsylvania's Governor Josh Shapiro, Senate Leader Kim Ward, and House Speaker Joanna McClinton have demanded that the Commonwealth Court reject a citizen-led initiative to improve public schooling in Pennsylvania.

In September, Abington Township residents Ken Krawchuk and his wife Roberta filed suit in Commonwealth Court seeking a ruling that the public schools are in violation of Article 3 Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution which mandates that the Commonwealth, "provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education." Their suit cites standardized test scores showing that most students are not reading or doing math at grade level—hence not "thorough"—and that a public education costs more than twice as much as a typical private education—hence not "efficient." But despite those manifest flaws in our public schools, in October the governor and legislative leaders each separately filed legal papers to block any court action ordering improvements in how the public schools are run.

"I'm flabbergasted," Krawchuk said. "It's obvious to anyone who bothers to look that our public schools suck. Most kids are not learning. All the facts back that up. Yet here are the top three leaders of Pennsylvania throwing a legal monkey wrench into our children's futures. They've raised a blizzard of technicalities that completely ignores the primary issue, which is their continuing failure to comply with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Constitution, not to mention the resulting grave harm they're inflicting on our children. This lawsuit boils down to asking the court one simple question our leaders cannot duck: Are they obeying the Constitution, or aren't they? Well, they're not. And nowhere in their objections do they deny it."

The Krawchuks' original lawsuit was filed in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania on September 22, 2026, docket number 441 M.D. 2026, with the goal of forcing the privatization of Pennsylvania's failing public school system which, if successful, would have allowed for the complete elimination of the onerous school property tax without raising any other tax. However, in October Shapiro, Ward, and McClinton filed their response calling for the Krawchuks' original suit to be thrown out. Last week the Krawchuks amended their suit and filed papers asking the court to set aside the remaining objections and allow the case to proceed.

With the filing of the Krawchuks' responses, the Court will now decide whether the case goes forward to an eventual conclusion. More information about the initiative and a copy of the filed suit and all responses can be found on the web at http://KenKrawchuk.com/4F. Optional art in support of this release is at http://KenKrawchuk.com/PA-Schools-Report-Card.jpg.

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