

From: Irene Schein [ijwrench@snet.net]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 8:43 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY/HB6493

Dear co -chairs Mr. Fleishmann, and Mr. Gaffey, and members of the Education committee;

First, I would like to express my appreciation for your time and consideration of this matter.

I am a resident of the town of chaplin and previously served as Board of Finance chair for many years.

Our regional High school, District#11 ,has been a challenge for our small town for many years.

The small population of students and the large administrative costs has left us with the highest cost per

pupil in the state. Also, in an effort to control costs course offerings are at a minimum, short changing

students and causing people with children to move out of town, or avoid moving to chaplin.

With demographic changes, showing declining population of students in the lower grades ,opportunities

have presented themselves in neighboring schools for our students. I believe it would be a win/win situation

for our town's finances, student opportunities , and neighboring high schools to combine our resources. We

can fill their empty spaces and bring all the costs down for local citizens and the cost sharing funds.

It is extremely important that this change in the statute be approved so parents can have more choices for

their children and to bring the high educational costs down.

The statute as it is presently written has led to two towns being "held hostage" by the third town!

a few more votes in one town can decide the referendum even though many more people in the other towns

vote differently.

This change in the statute would allow for a majority rule in the district and give each vote equal weight.

Sincerely

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