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TOWN OF EASTFORD

February 20, 2012

Senator Tony Guglielmo
100 Stafford Street
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Dear Tony,

Through your efforts I have become aware of Governors Bill No. 24 (LCO NO. 551) an act concerning educational competitiveness and hearings scheduled pursuant to this proposed legislation. I am especially concerned with language proposed in Section 11, subsection a thru d. Without having adequate time to properly analyze the entire proposal it appears there is a penalty for small school districts that exceed state average per pupil costs for education expenditures. This I find especially onerous and counter productive to education for the following reasons.

1. Town education expenses have been driven upward by previous legislative actions such as the Teacher Enhancement Act in the 1980's and the Minimum Budget Requirement Legislation. In addition the arbitration laws so favor the Teachers Unions that small towns such as Eastford cannot even afford the process. Eastford cannot practically challenge teacher's salaries which of course are the major education cost driver. Eastford cannot afford to arbitrate and win! For the state to drive through mandated education cost far exceeding what free market costs would require and then penalize our high per pupil cost is frankly, INSANE!
2. From a quality education standpoint why on earth would the state penalize a community's willingness to support local education?

Tony, I would appreciate it if you would forward this correspondence to the legislative committee hearings about to take place. It is maddening to contemplate a small community such as Eastford suffering a penalty driven by the response to mandates enacted by those responsible for the high cost of education in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Allan E. Platt
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