

*Remarks of Joe Butkovsky
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**Before the Education Committee
On S.B. 24-AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Joe Butkovsky, and I am a technology teacher in Stamford.

Senate Bill 24 is a thinly disguised method to save money at the expense of our children's education. Employee salary and benefits are the largest part any board of education budget. By reducing these costs, every municipality will save huge amounts of money. Local mill rates will decrease, and Connecticut citizens will be able to keep more money in their pockets.

Unfortunately, this savings will be short-lived.

Over time, taxpayers will begin paying more in state tax. The state will need this revenue to pay for the increased costs that come with an illiterate and marginally employed populace. Social services, prisons, and our judicial system will need more funding. Our children will need these institutions when they're grown.

Should state senators should feel satisfied with themselves if Senate Bill 24 passes? Although the savings in local taxes will be offset by the eventual increase in state tax, at least those greedy teachers won't be getting any of it.