

I appreciate the opportunity to be heard by the Education Committee on issues relating to Senate Bill #24 An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness.

Although I agree the time has come for change in Connecticut schools and support many of Governor Malloy's proposed changes, the following are areas I have concerns about.

1) offering pre-school and all day kindergarten for students attending charter or magnet schools. This does not seem equitable since the students of Southington will not be offered this same opportunity due to budget constraints at our local level.

2) re-evaluate the formula that districts must adhere to for special education students. The state should fund this formula at 100% not the 72% that they are currently using it is draining our local budgets. Also, the burden of proof should be on the party challenging the placement not the local Board.

3) re-evaluate districts responsibility for tuition to charter and magnet schools. The cost for these tuitions takes away the dollar amounts we can spend on our own students.

4) continue to support ECS funding at equitable levels.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

Terri Carmody

Vice-Chair Southington Board of Education