



Memo

To: Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Senator Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairs and
Members of the Education Committee

From: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager

Date: 2/22/2012

Re: Testimony on SB 24 – An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness

We are deeply encouraged and thankful for the Governor's proposed additional funding for schools in Connecticut under Senate Bill 24. These additional funds will go a long way to aid local schools struggling after years of static state aid. With the taxpayers of the Town of Wethersfield paying 87 percent of the costs for education in Wethersfield, these additional dollars are most welcome.

However, there is an element to Senate Bill 24 which does cause concern; that being the requirement that local schools send an additional \$1,000 per child to the charter school which the student attends. Towns are already struggling to meet the needs of children attending the local schools, having to take \$1,000 per student and send it to a charter school further reduces the amount of money available in the local schools for education. Sending local dollars out to charter schools will not increase the quality of education offered to public school students, it will merely further reduce the ability for local schools to provide the quality education the students deserve.

We ask that the requirement for the local schools to send an additional \$1,000 per student attending a charter school be removed from Senate Bill 24.