



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Education Committee
Public Testimony
Monday, March 17th, 2014

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 473 AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOLS and Senate Bill 475 AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Ackert and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am here to **support** two separate bills.

The first is SB 473 AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOLS. This bill would require the parent or guardian of a student who will be enrolled in a magnet school or whose name has been placed on a waiting list for a magnet school to notify the school district in which such student resides of such enrollment or placement. This is crucial to enable our local Boards of Education the ability to properly plan and budget. When I met with my local school leaders this was something that was of a concern and one that I thought would be fairly easy to amend. In one town that I represent, East Hampton, they discovered after the budget was completed that they would have 110 students going out of district. One can imagine how even losing a handful of students could cause for significant changes in course availability, teacher coverage, and class size. I believe this is a valuable tool for school districts and it would allow them to plan more effectively as dollars for education are being stretched to the breaking point. This is an important tool that we can provide schools that will not cost one dime!

The second is SB 475 AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE

STATUTES CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS. The community of East Hampton has been working diligently on this project. The project began with parents and community activists who spearheaded the referendum and now rests with the professional and qualified members of the School Building Committee who have been meeting for months to make this vision a reality. This project would completely renovate the entire building footprint and update several key areas including the science wing.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Ziobron', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa Ziobron
State Representative
34th District