



## Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Appropriations Committee

April 2nd, 2015

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Executive Secretary- Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. I am here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state in support of:

### **SB 816 – An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula**

It is our understanding that Education Cost Sharing formula was created to provide an equal educational opportunity by leveling the playing field of the haves and have nots when it comes to school funding.

Though this formula was to create a transparent, equal and level method of funding we ask why in its over 25 year history has there been such inequality overfunding roughly 1/3 of our schools and subsequently underfunding the roughly 2/3 of the remaining schools?

As this committee has the task of allocating funds, we support measures of equality and fairness.

SB 816 aims to do just that. Fully funding ECS target amounts will not increase spending but will level the playing field once again between the haves and have nots.

We appreciate the committee addressing this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Pelletier

Executive Secretary Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO