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**Testimony of State Representative John Hampton, 16<sup>th</sup> District in Support of SB 816 An Act Establishing A Minimum Level Of Funding Under The Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula**

**Appropriations Committee Public Hearing  
Thursday, April 2nd, 2015, 10:00 a.m.  
Room 2E**

Chairmen Representative Toni Walker, Chairman Senator Beth Bye, Vice-Chairs Representative Henry Genga, Representative Robyn Porter, Senator Joan Hartley and Ranking Members Representative Melissa Ziobron and Senator Robert Kane, for the record my name is John Hampton, State Representative for the town of Simsbury. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on **SB 816 An Act Establishing A Minimum Level Of Funding Under The Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula** here today.

This legislation would require that no town receive less than fifty percent of funding under the Education Cost Sharing grant. This would help ensure more equitable ECS funding to towns that have changed economically since the ECS cap was established and have been unfairly penalized. As you can see from the bill, this is quite a team effort as we have twenty three Co-Introducers of the bill.

The need for this legislation stems from the fact that there are many towns in our state that are currently being underfunded, not only under the ECS Cost Sharing Formula, but at a level that is below 50 percent. As an example, Simsbury currently is being funded for education at a level of 47.9 percent, which translates to being underfunded by \$6,219,775. This shortfall of funding is left for the town to make up on its own, which results in an even higher property tax burden for our residents.

All we are asking for is to bring some more fairness to the ECS formula by creating a funding floor of at least 50 percent so that our communities can be better compensated for the cost of educating students. No matter what community a child is educated in, there should be at least a minimum percentage of funding that a town can be expected to receive for that cost. All of our towns pay their fair share of income tax, sales tax and other fees to the state and we believe at the very least they should be compensated at a level that is a least half of what the reimbursement rate should be. This legislation would also be beneficial because it helps towns in being able better formulate their school budget knowing they can expect to receive a certain level of funding each and every year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony here today and I strongly urge passage of this bill. I would be glad to answer any question committee members may have.

Respectfully submitted,

John K. Hampton