



State of Connecticut
House of Representatives

Representative Kim Rose
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Chairman Walker, Chairman Bye, Ranking Members Kane and Ziobron, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, I would like to offer my strong support for SB 816 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FUNDING UNDER THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT FORMULA.

Connecticut has long enjoyed a reputation of being a leader in educational standards and outcomes for students while struggling to close an Achievement Gap driven by inequality in the delivery of education. Among the important corrective measures we have sought is the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant that seeks to equitably distribute state dollars based on economic and student need.

Our first failure with ECS has been our inability to fully fund the grant so that we might accomplish the goal of equitable funding. Instead, the implementation of this formula has resulted in a wide range of inequitable funding for most districts with one or two districts being funded accurately and with fidelity. SB 816 offers relief to towns and districts being woefully underfunded by ensuring that, at a minimum, districts receive at least 50% of their grant. This measure will provide vital funding to struggling districts, raise the floor in a habitually flat-funded program, and improve the buying power of districts in over a dozen towns.

I urge your support of SB 816 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Rose".

Rep. Kim Rose
State Representative
118th Assembly District