



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am here as a sponsor and introducer of Senate Bill 816, An Act Establishing a Minimum Funding Level for Educational Cost Sharing. With me to testify on this is the honorable First Selectwoman of Haddam, Melissa Schlag, and the Region 17 Haddam Killingworth Superintendent, Dr. Howard Thiery.

The Education Cost Sharing formula was devised by former Majority Leader and my former Senator, Richard Schneller. Though this was more than twenty-five years ago, he and his colleagues were able to recognize that there is a difference between what public education costs and what any given community can afford to pay. This was determined by a formula with a grand list and other factors.

Of Connecticut's 169 municipalities, more than forty of them are presently overfunded; some are quite significantly over the formula, while nineteen municipalities are underfunded below the fifty percent target. Regardless of how we got here, this needs fixing. I could put forth a bill to fully fund the Town of Haddam, but this would be an exercise in futility, as similar requests die in committee. The prevailing wisdom has been that until we can fully fund everyone, we can't just make it right for a particular town or city.

This bill would bring the nineteen lowest, all funded less than fifty percent, at least up to the halfway point. It is not a long term solution, but it is a step in the right direction. We should fund the overfunded municipalities at the full funding level, and no more.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Miller".

Representative Philip Miller
36th District