

**TO: Honorable Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker,
And the Members of the Appropriations Committee**

Testimony in **FAVOR** of **SB816**

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

Haddam, April 2, 2015

Many years ago, the Connecticut Legislature voted to establish the ECS funding formula. The principle behind it was to help towns pay for their education costs in a fair manner, according to a complicated formula that would take into consideration many parameters.

While the formula seemed to have worked for many towns, there are 16 that, year after year, find themselves underfunded at below 50% of their legislated level of funding.

Haddam is one of them. While sister towns like East Haddam and Killingworth are receiving close to their total legislated share of funding, Haddam is consistently left behind and our choice is either to scale down school and government projects or raise taxes, making our mill rate much higher than our neighbors.

This bill is a small but crucial step in rectifying the problem and attempts to fund those 16 towns at least at 50% of what is due to them.

We urge you to support this bill.

Thank You

Ed Schwing
Haddam CT