

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

Re: Testimony in **FAVOR** of **SB816: *An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula***

Date: April 3, 2015

I write in support of this legislation.

I am the mother of two boys who attend Haddam-Killingworth High School. I am also a former member of the RSD17 Board of Education and Haddam's Board of Finance. My husband and I moved to Haddam in 1995 just as Connecticut Yankee was being decommissioned.

I have no problem paying taxes that support my children's education, and I have no problem with a formula that places the major burden of school funding on residents of wealthier communities. The majority of residents in Haddam can afford their taxes.

But the ECS formula is obviously unfair. Haddam is the 10th lowest funded town in the state, but it is by no means the 10th wealthiest town. We are a rural community with little industry or business sector. We are similar to our neighboring river towns in that respect, and yet we get much less ECS funding. I am well aware of the incredible inequities between rural and urban school district performance in Connecticut, and so I would support taking the funding that is available to wealthier towns and dividing that pie equally. Fair is fair.

Haddam's share of ECS funding should have been adjusted when Connecticut Yankee shut down, and over 10 years later it is long past time to make the correction.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Best Regards,

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