



## EASTON, REDDING, AND REGION 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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**BERNARD A. JOSEFSBERG, Ed.D.**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 19, 2015

### **Written Testimony Re: H.B. 7019 – An Act Concerning the Minimum Budget Requirement**

Local school superintendents would not ordinarily support legislation authorizing reductions in annual school appropriations. And in fact, I do not support H.B. 7019 as written. I could, however, were two revisions added.

- 1) Include language that requires concurrence between the BOE and the BOF to reduce appropriations beyond the limits of the existing statute.

*Rationale: As written, the bill vests too much power in the BOF. The state's interest in funding stability is better supported when local education trustees and local fiscal trustees agree that local circumstances warrant reduced appropriations.*

- 2) With respect to subsection (d) (7), add additional performance and local funding metrics to expand the category of school districts exempt from the provisions of this bill.

*Rationale: The CT DOE is re-examining the components of the DPI to safeguard it as a valid indicator. Until it does so, its use for the purposes of this bill is suspect. Even with a more sophisticated metric for the purposes of this bill, a top ten rank order of something as complex as "school district performance" would be unfair to high performing school districts ranked 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and so on. Rank order magnifies trivial differences.*

*Bernard Josefsberg*