

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 4:48 PM  
**To:** AppTestimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Linares, Art; Rep. Miller, Philip; mschlag@haddam.org  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of SB816

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

Thursday, April 2, 2015

I write in favor of SB816 because I am a Senior Citizen living in the town of Haddam where our education costs continue to drive up our tax responsibility, disproportionately to towns around us. Haddam is the tenth most underfunded ECS town, well below our neighbors and other towns of similar economic makeup.

When the ECS formula was created, our town had tax income from the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Plant in Haddam Neck. When it closed operations in the 1990s our Grand List was severely impacted. I believe that no adjustments were made when that drastic loss of tax income occurred.

We seniors know the benefit of a good education program, but so much of the money we pay in taxes goes to support Regional School District 17 that we are hurting. It has become harder and harder for us seniors to continue to live here. Many of us are on fixed income, and it is particularly hard to manage to live modestly here in Haddam.

Because of our high taxes, mostly made up of education obligations, Haddam even has trouble attracting businesses to start up in town.

I believe that passage of SB816 would offer some relief by bringing our ECS funding from 42% up to 50%. That modest first step in fixing the ECS funding formula will have a positive impact on the town of Haddam.

Please consider SB816 favorably.

Sincerely,

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