



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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***Testimony by Representative Pam Staneski  
Before the Appropriations Committee  
In support of SB 816  
April 2, 2015***

Good Morning Chairmen Bye and Walker, Ranking Members Kane and Ziobron, and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to provide testimony in support of SB 816, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FUNDING UNDER THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT FORMULA.

I want to thank the sponsors of this bill for raising the issue of funding inequalities regarding the Education Cost Sharing Formula. Years ago the state made a commitment to fund 50% of education costs, and each year that state funding is held flat, localities are faced with funding a larger share of these costs.

I represent two towns, Milford and Orange, whose ECS funding is below the 50% threshold, and in fact, Orange is only funded at 23% of the full grant. As a prior Board of Education member, I was witness to the tough decisions we had to make in setting a budget that would balance educational needs—special education, Title I, ELL, free and reduced lunch, along with all programs for all students—with taxpayer's ability to pay.

We all recognize that the Education Cost Sharing Formula is flawed; however, the move to fund all grants to a 50% threshold is a start.

I encourage adoption and passage of SB 816.

Respectfully,

Representative Pam Staneski