

Testimony in FAVOR of SB816

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

Thursday, April 2, 2015

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in support of Bill SB816 that supports equitable ECS funding. The town of Haddam is grossly underfunded because the ECS funding formula was not readjusted after the Yankee Power Plant was decommissioned in Haddam almost a decade ago.

As a resident of Haddam, I find it disappointing that the State seems to find vast amounts of money for magnet schools, charter schools, alliance districts, yet has not been adequately funding our public schools for many years. The inequity in funding is a major dilemma and extremely problematic for us in Haddam. Haddam residents are burdened with high taxes and, consequently, they vote down the school budget.

The truth is Haddam is underfunded by ECS by 42%. That equates to \$2.5 million dollars that we are shorted! This is stunning, and unacceptable. I fear that if Haddam's situation continues, the quality of our school system will be at risk.

Please don't allow Haddam taxpayers to continue to choose between supporting education and offsetting their taxes. Education is a Constitution Right. The State of Connecticut must help small towns, like Haddam, pay for the rising costs to educate our youth so further drastic school budget cuts won't be necessary to offset the burdening taxes on residents.

Thank you for considering the benefits this bill would bring to so many... adults and children alike.

Sincerely,

Erich Twachtman

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