



Testimony of  
**Randall Prose, President**  
Windham Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1577, AFL-CIO

Education Committee Hearing  
March 2, 2016

***HB 5465 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DUAL LANGUAGE  
MAGNET SCHOOL AND A STEM MAGNET SCHOOL***

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. My name is Randall Prose and I am the President of the Windham Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1577. We are proud educators in Windham public schools and it is on behalf of my members that I submit this testimony on HB 5465 An Act Authorizing the Establishment of a Dual Language Magnet School and a STEM Magnet School.

I was not aware of opportunities for community input, and became aware of this too late to provide our membership or community opportunities to offer their opinions.

Windham is already home to a successful magnet school—the Charles M. Barrows Stem Academy—and we are well aware of the advantages those students have compared to students enrolled in our traditional neighborhood schools. We also recognize the great advantages conferred on bilingual and biliterate individuals and want to foster opportunities for students to be bilingual and biliterate in our community. For these reasons, we would support the creation of a K-8 dual language magnet school. Windham is a truly diverse community and we look forward to having the opportunity to further that diversity through the creation of this magnet.

We are still evaluating the proposal to convert Windham High School to a STEM interdistrict magnet school. We have questions and concerns that should be addressed before the Windham Federation of Teachers can adopt a position.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need more information. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.