

Education Committee Members:

There's clear evidence that the Commissioner's Network has failed to improve schools in struggling districts. Yet, you are being urged to support a bill that will give more control of local education to the State Department of Education, and the State Board of Education, and is largely authored by a Charter School lobbying organization, ConnCan.

The entire bill is ridiculous considering the horrible performance of schools under the Commissioner's network, the mediocre performance of charter schools in general (especially considering that they are not held to the same standards as public schools in accepting special education students and students with academic, social and psychological problems). What's most shocking is a provision which will allow the State Board of Education to suspend laws of the State of Connecticut to achieve the goals of the proposed bill.

As a former Board of Education member, and chair of its budget committee, I know that the state has failed to live up to its constitutional duty to provide adequate and equal education for all public school students. The state has failed to fully-fund education through ECS, and its patchwork of Alliance Grant funding, for decades.

Please direct your attention to the real solution to education. Fully-funding school districts, especially those most in need. It is one solution that has never, ever been tried.

I urge you to withhold your support for proposed bill 5551, and resist the well-funded, well-orchestrated lobbying activity of groups like ConnCan.

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