



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Education Committee
Monday, 6, 2017
Public Hearing
11:00 AM in LOB Hearing Room 1E

Testimony in Support of

House Bill No. 7201 AN ACT APPLYING THE SHEFF DEFINITION OF REDUCED-ISOLATION SETTING TO ALL INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

Good Morning Co-Chairs Fleischmann, Slossberg, Boucher, Ranking Member Lavielle, and esteemed Members of the Education Committee.

My name is Representative Chris Soto and I represent Connecticut's Coast Guard City - New London. I am here, along with many colleagues, to testify in strong support of HB 7201 An Act Applying The Sheff Definition Of Reduced-Isolation Setting To All Interdistrict Magnet Schools In The State.

I am going to defer my time to our District team but I really want to share one message as a takeaway, and that message is equity.

When we think back and study history as to why we started down the magnet path, it was all about leveling the playing field for students... it was about equity. And whether intentional or not, the current magnet system has a double standard with respect to how we calculate student populations – One for magnet schools within the Sheff region, and one for the 90 magnet schools around our state that are outside that region. So as you listen to today's testimony from my colleagues, please consider that if we all have the same goal, which is to increase students' achievement, let's also have one standard.

Thank you for your time.