



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE EMMETT D. RILEY
FORTY SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4114
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Emmett.Riley@cga.ct.gov

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Education Committee
Monday, 6, 2017
Public Hearing
11:00 AM in LOB Hearing Room 1E

Testimony, RE Governor's Senate Bill 786
An Act Concerning Mandate Relief, Transparency and Regional Incentives

Dear Esteemed Colleagues; Co-chairs Fleischmann, Slossberg, Boucher, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Education Committee.

As a proud Norwich Free Academy alumnus, a lifelong Norwich resident, and deputy majority leader of the House Democrats of the Connecticut General Assembly, I passionately support Norwich Free Academy, an independently governed and privately endowed academy which serves as the designated high school for eight communities (Bozrah, Canterbury, Franklin, Lisbon, Norwich, Preston, Sprague, and Voluntown) and tuition students.

Norwich Free Academy is the jewel of the Rose City, and for 160 years as a duly constituted 501 (c) 3 has operated ethically and in a fiscally responsible manner to fulfill its mission to return to our communities, educated students of good character prepared to take on the responsibilities of positive, contributing citizens.

Norwich Free Academy provides outstanding educational opportunities to students at an affordable cost. With the assistance of private alumni and donor support stewarded by the separate, private 501(c) 3, Norwich Free Academy Foundation, Inc., Norwich Free Academy is able to present to our students an academic and co-curricular program unlikely to be supported by tax dollars alone. As a result, our students and our communities are the beneficiaries of this model of independent governance and private endowment.

I oppose the provisions of Governor's Bill 786, which applies to Connecticut's independently governed, endowed academies.