

March 16, 2017

Re: H.B. No. 7255, H.B. No. 7252, S.B. No. 1007, H.B. No. 7254

Dear Chairwoman Walker, Chairwoman Osten, Chairman Formica, Ranking Member Ziobron and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tiffany Moyer-Washington, I am a Hartford resident and Hartford teacher of 13 years and an active member of Educators for Excellence-Connecticut. I am also the parent of a child with special needs. My son requires a lot of additional daily supports – currently he is in a self-contained special education classroom with 7 peers.

He requires occupational therapy throughout the day, he requires specialized transportation, he receives social work services, and because of his allergies requires alternative meals when at school.

I'm in opinion, it is ludicrous to believe that a child with so many additional needs would receive the same dollar amount as a child who does not require so much. Yet, right now, Connecticut ascribes the same dollar amount to regular education and special education students.

I urge you to do what is right, not only for my son but for all of the children in Connecticut with special needs and support the creation of a task force to assess instituting a Special Education cost cooperative.

It is my hope that you consider the concerns listed above along with the concerns of other teachers and parents of special needs students in your decision making process on the above listed raised bills.

Thank you,

Tiffany Moyer-Washington