

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Testimony opposing HB 7255 AA Establishing a Task Force to Conduct a Feasibility Study Regarding the Creation of a Special Education Predictable Cost Cooperative

Distinguished Committee Members,

As an elected Board of Education member in New London I understand the impact of Special Education on a school system. The problem is lack of appropriate funding! Currently the state kicks-in special education funding once a student cost is over four times the regular per-pupil cost.

Concerns with this proposal:

1. It doesn't address the need for an increase special education funding.
2. The only similar model is underfunded and distributes aid inequitably.
3. The members of the task force are the same organizations. They are not special education experts, school finance experts, special education advocates or CCJEF.

Please support the cost study analysis proposed by CCJEF in order to understand the impact of special education, ELLs and poverty. Please do not support HB 7255

Thank you for your commitment to the education of CT school children.

Mirna Martinez - New London Board of Education Member