

**Testimony in Support of HB 7255 – An Act Establishing a Taskforce to Conduct a Feasibility Study
Regarding the Creation of a Special Education Predictable Cost Cooperative**

Submitted By

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Members of the Education Committee,

I urge you to support the enactment of HB 7255 – An Act Establishing a Taskforce to Conduct a Feasibility Study Regarding the Creation of a Special Education Predictable Cost Cooperative.

Costs pertaining to special education are some of the most volatile in Wilton’s annual education budget. This volatility makes it very difficult to predict costs and to protect non-special education spending, when invariably, we must draw funds from other non-special education lines to cover unanticipated expenditures.

The establishment of the Special Education Cost Cooperative proposed by the CT School Finance Project has the potential of creating predictability in annual special education expenditures for local districts and through its financing structure, enable districts to avoid having to redirect non special education funds to cover unanticipated special education expenditures. In an era when education budgets are being slashed, the Cooperative is a very welcome opportunity that has the potential to financially benefit the residents of Wilton and bring some needed stability to special education funding.

It is worthwhile to conduct a feasibility study as specified in the Act prior to implementing the Cooperative.