



# MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 West River Street □ Milford, CT 06460

**Elizabeth E. Feser, Ed.D.**

Superintendent of Schools

[efeser@milforded.org](mailto:efeser@milforded.org)

Phone: (203) 783-3433

FAX: (203) 783-3475

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Dear Members of the Education Committee:

**I am writing to ask that you oppose House Bill 1008: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION RESULTING FROM RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.**

The potential burden that will be placed on districts as a result of this bill passing is frightening. I urge members of the Committee to oppose this bill.

In the Milford Public Schools, if we were to assume the cost of **residential placements** for students placed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the financial impact would be devastating. As an example, if we were to assume the cost of our students who are *currently* in residential placements paid for by DDS, the district would immediately incur \$707,000 in residential costs for the few students who fit this category.

We also have pending cases right now that could result in another \$500,000 for residential placement costs. All of these costs are in addition to the educational cost for these students in out of district placements. The cost of the educational placements for these few students is over \$720,000 annually. Assuming the cost of residential placement would bring the total cost for the few existing students in residential placement to nearly \$1.5 million.

We simply cannot absorb the residential placement costs into our budget without negatively affecting other programs and students. Any efforts to strengthen and expand our in-district programming to keep students in our district will be jeopardized resulting in an increase in the number of students in out of district placements. Please do the right thing by districts and vote "No" on this bill.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth E. Feser, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools