

**Testimony of Ruth Levy  
Superintendent of Schools  
Chester, Deep River, Essex, & Region 4 Schools**

**IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILLS HB 7353 AND SB 1069**

This testimony is in support of HB 7353, "AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION," and SB 1069,"AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES." The language in these bills are what we need to build programs and cut costs between small districts.

HB 7353 opens the door for us to help students receive more efficient special education services at a lower cost. It builds a sense of cooperation between districts and towns. Simply, it is better educationally and fiscally for children and towns. In addition, it broadens a sense of community and support for our students most in need.

SB 1069 will allow the Supervision District, to incorporate more positions across Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4, providing more parity and economic efficiencies within our three towns. In addition, this language will allow us to share personnel without them losing seniority as occurs currently. Cooperative agreements between our towns and other local small towns will provide the mechanism so needed to share personnel and operationalize programs that provide better programming and economic efficiencies.

