

**“If we make a promise, we should also figure out a way to keep it. If we don’t live up to our word as a legislature, Connecticut would have to change our motto from the Land of Steady Habits to the Land of Broken Promises.” Holly Cheeseman R-East Lyme**

Regarding HB 6439

Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The two year freeze proposed by Governor Lamont on Education Cost Sharing is a regressive measure that will perpetuate the inequities that plagued the program in 2017. It will emasculate the corrective effort made by the state legislature in that year and continue to penalize local taxpayers in over 70 municipalities.

This is because the number of towns receiving far more or far less than they deserve will remain static. For example, Guilford will continue to receive four times what it deserves (\$1.7 million to \$407k) compared to Greenwich which will get three times less than it deserves (\$378k to \$1.07m), The same inequity exists between Farmington and Danbury, and Bethlehem to Woodbury (which send their children to the same Region 14 schools). The losers will be subsidizing the winners' local tax levy and education costs, not *sharing* them.

Surely, there ought to be those in Hartford who can figure out how to save money AND continue the schedule toward full equity using the ECS formula. Otherwise Education Cost Sharing will be in the same sorry, shameful situation it was four years ago only with less money to unfairly distribute. And, based on the state’s record of ECS “reform” from 2012 – 2017, it is hard to believe there will be any thaw after the next budget cycle.

Committee members, reject this freeze and keep the promise made to municipalities in 2017.

Respectfully,

William A. Monti

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