

Testimony

Vermont House Committee on Education

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Overview of Professional Qualifications¹

- Assistant Professor, Education Leadership & Policy Studies, University of Vermont
- 15+ years experience employed as a professional evaluator, specializing in research and policy related to education and social welfare programs
- State fiscal/budget analyst (Executive; New York & Delaware)
- Numerous policy and evaluation reports, briefings, and peer-reviewed publications on education policy issues related to resource allocation in education settings, including special/general education funding and finance, education program costs, teacher quality and the distribution of teacher resources, and time and learning
- Expert witness/consultant to Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Finance (*CCJEF v. Rel/*) school finance court case (issues related to inter-district disparities in resources for special education and instructional quality/teacher quality)
- Editorial Board for the *Journal of Education Finance* and the *National Education Policy Center*
- Chair, Fiscal Issues, Policy and Education Finance division of the American Educational Research Association

Summary of Testimony

- Testimony responds to the Committee's request for additional background on complex systems thinking and its application to education policy making.
- Presentation before the Committee focuses on three key points:
 1. Envisioning Vermont's education system as a "complex system"
 2. Distinguishing between "simple" and "wicked" policy problems
 3. Identifying points of "leverage" in complex systems as policy making strategy
- Presentation slides available to Committee as PDF documents.
- Additional reference materials available on request.

¹ My testimony is based on my professional experiences, research, and teaching. However, I appear before the Committee as a private citizen. Accordingly, the opinions and the materials shared with the Committee are my own, and do not represent organizations or individuals with whom I am, or have been, affiliated.