

April 23rd 2015

To the members of the Senate Committee on Education

I am a Peacham resident with a child in Peacham elementary school. I am also a permanent resident in the US and as such have lived and worked in education in six countries on four continents.

I would like to see the quality of a child's education be a concern of this education bill.

As a parent I want to see the quality of education rather than the cost be the over-riding issue of this bill.

Please begin to define what makes an excellent school.

Good schools are not always large in size, nor are less expensive schools always large in size. Good does not mean necessarily large and cheap. One size does not fit all.

Given the available resources to everyone – that is local expertise, the incredible number of expert and well developed internet resources and our amazing teachers - I don't see the need to penalise successful small schools.

Large supervisory unions should not mean less autonomy for schools. Countries around the world have very large equivalents of supervisory unions which, amongst other important services provide professional development and financial support to their schools. In Vermont, I believe that it is at the supervisory union level that the costs should be happening.

Schools such as Peacham see their alumni in a variety of places post secondary education. Some former Peacham students are influential members of our Vermont society.

In Peacham, I believe, that we are committed to our vibrant and successful elementary school. I hope that our elected government can also be supportive of such an area of community care and success.

We are also, I believe committed to school choice from grade 7 onwards, and we are hoping to retain this element of our community for the foreseeable future.

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