

Dear Chair Webb and members of the House Committee on Education,

It's with great frustration that I write to you tonight. When the Legislature appropriated substantial funds to pay for the weighting study it did not ask whether weights should be taken into account. It asked what are the correct weights so the weighting formula is equitable.

The nationally recognized, peer reviewed and published Pupil Weighting Factors Report answered that question... the current formula is not equitable and here are the scientifically, mathematically and statistically derived correct weights. That report has been in the hands of the legislature since Dec 24, 2019.

Now is the time to act... now is the time to bring equity to the weighting formula. All other questions are distractions and/or delay tactics. We know the problem and we know the solution. It's understandable that for political reasons the Legislature feels it's necessary to create a task force to come up with an implementation plan and to author the legislation. To paraphrase Dr. Kolbe, hard stop, leave it there.

All the other questions you are asking are valid and important. Including where else is there inequity. But those are questions for a different bill, a different task force, a different day.

Today, what Vermont needs is a narrowly focused S.13 which creates a task force to create the implementation plan for the weights as recommended in the Pupil Weighting Factors Report. As presented by Rep. Conlon today, the bill does not clarify this charge nor make it clear that the task force must be solely focused on creating a thoughtful plan to implement the weights.

I'm confident that at the end of the day your committee will do what's right.

Thank you for the time and attention you are giving to this issue of utmost importance to every Vermonter, especially all Vermont children.

Marc

Marc B. Schaubert, Dover VT

- **River Valleys Unified School District Board**
- **Windham Central Supervisory Union Board**
- **Vermont School Boards Association Board**
- **Coalition for Vermont Student Equity Member**