



BRISTOL * LINCOLN * MONKTON * NEW HAVEN * STARKSBORO

Mount Abraham Unified School District
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Shaping Our Future Together

February 26, 2021

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for providing us an opportunity to submit written testimony. We are requesting that this letter be entered into the written testimony of the Senate Education Committee on H.81 and posted on the Committee's website.

While we understand the Senate Education Committee will be working through H.81, we write in support of H.63. We believe H.63 to be the best way to control health care costs for our district of approximately; 325 employees without jeopardizing current educational programming for our 1417 students. The numbers below should help to support that position.

In our proposed FY22 Budget, 4,352,390 dollars are dedicated to healthcare. This represents 13.7% percent of our total budget and 20.2% of the 1.13% total budget increase. For the past three years, the healthcare percentage of the total budget was:

13.63% in FY21
10.92% in FY20
10.16% in FY19

The cost of healthcare as a percentage of the average cost of compensation of teachers is approximately 19.6%.

For several years our Board has used the spending threshold as a hard line for budget increases and our administration has responded by limiting budget increases to that number. Given the outsized share of healthcare, our administration has been challenged to maintain programming and operations while staying under the spending threshold. This is an unsustainable ask. We urge you to support H.63.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dawn Griswold, MAUSD Board Chair
Patrick Reen, MAUSD Superintendent