

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I write to you as a Norwich School Board Member. It is a difficult time to serve on a school board in Vermont. Vermont needs a strong and collaborative partnership between the General Assembly and local school districts for our students and communities to thrive. I do not believe the current yield bill, or a similar bill, would strengthen that partnership at this time. Rather, I believe it would continue the fraying of trust between the State and local school boards. Additionally, the policy levers in the bill could further exacerbate the plight of local school districts as they continue to work through recent education funding changes. I urge you to reject the current approach and work with the Vermont School Boards Association, Vermont Superintendents Association, Vermont Principals' Association, and the Vermont Association of School Business Officials to find a common ground between the State and local school districts.

Thank you.

Michael Costa, Member  
Norwich School Board