

I thank you, Honorable Vermont State Senators, for allowing me the opportunity to share my thoughts on this proposed legislation. I am a resident of Swanton, who currently serves on the recently merged Missisquoi Valley School District, but I am not representing our "Board", because we have not addressed many of the issues currently before you in this legislation. It is scheduled for further discussion at future meetings. I believe that the weighting study is one of the highest quality pieces of research on education issues impacting Vermont youth that I have read during the past 55 years. So NOW is the time to act. Involvement by the Agency of Education and Vermont State Board of Education is critical in order to share quality information with Vermont stakeholders and receive their feedback. Please keep key UVM and JFO personnel directly involved with data preparation, please do NOT defer to a summer study and equally important DO NOT delay the process, Even though personally I would like to have some immediate action to address the concerns of those who now know that the current weighting system is unfair, I do understand the legislative process. I encourage you to devise a plan that provides for legislative action early in the 2021 legislative session.

Thank you for your time. Don Collins