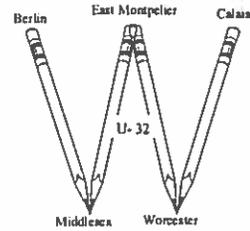


Washington Central Unified Union School District

WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.

1130 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone (802) 229-0553
Fax (802) 229-2761

Bryan Olkowski
Superintendent



February 17, 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 and posted on the Committee's website.

While we understand the Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs worked 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; 346 employees without jeopardizing current educational programming for our nearly 1500 students. The numbers below should help to support that position.

In our proposed FY22 Budget, \$3,876,070 are dedicated to healthcare. This represents 11.1% of our total budget. For the past three years, the healthcare percentage of the total budget was:

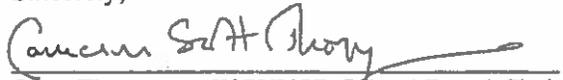
\$3,937,923 in FY 21 which is 11.1% of the total budget

\$3,256,884 in FY 20 which is 9.6% of the total budget

The cost of healthcare as a percentage of the average cost of compensation of teachers is approximately 18-20 %.

Given the outsized share of healthcare, our administration has been challenged to redistribute education dollars to ensure that significant programming and operations were not cut. This is an unsustainable ask. We urge you to support H.63 because it balances appropriate access to health care benefits and reasonable cost containment to ensure the financial sustainability of the benefits. Cost containment is needed in order to avoid further jeopardizing educational opportunities for students and maintenance of facilities. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


Scott Thompson, WCUUSD School Board Chair


Flor Diaz Smith, WCUUSD School Board Vice Chair


Bryan Olkowski, Superintendent