

ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent



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Dear Senators of the Senate Education Committee:

As the Superintendent of the Orange Southwest School District and a resident of Randolph, Vermont, I ask that this letter be entered into the written testimony of the Senate Education Committee and posted on the committee website.

As a district that was negatively and severely impacted financially by the last round of statewide health care bargaining, I am deeply concerned that the senate could possibly move forward on H.81 without properly gauging the fiscal impacts of its implementation. To ensure that proper consideration is given to the potential financial impacts of this legislation, I ask that section 6 of H.81 be modified by adding the following language from H.63:

*(1) In reaching a decision, the arbitrator or arbitrators shall determine which of the two submissions most appropriately balances appropriate access to health care benefits and reasonable cost containment to ensure the financial sustainability of the plan.*

*(2) Adding to the factors the arbitrator or arbitrators must consider:*  
*(a) the actuarial value of the health benefits for the full term of the award proposed by each party as compared to health plans available through Vermont Health Connect; and*  
*(b) the percentage increase or decrease in education spending that is likely to occur under either party's proposal for the full term of the award as compared to overall economic growth for the State of Vermont.*

I support the addition of this language because the fiscal impact of the changes proposed in H.81 were not considered by the senate last year.

I genuinely thank you for your work on the difficult issues affecting our state in this time of crisis and for considering this request.

Most Sincerely,

Layne W. Millington  
OSSD Superintendent