

Sara Abbott Pinkham
New Sharon
LD 1527

Testimony of Sara Abbott Pinkham,
Parent from Cape Cod Hill School
In Support of LD 1527

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Sara Abbott Pinkham. I am a resident of New Sharon and Parent at Cape Cod Hill School. Today, I'm submitting testimony in support of LD 1527 "An Act To Promote the Community School Program"

The community school program has been very beneficial to the Cape Cod Hill School Community. As a parent, pto member and school volunteer I have been able to witness first hand the benefits this program has provided to families in our small community.

As a parent, I have been able to watch my children take part in after school programming which was made possible by our community school. Activities have ranged from girl scouts, plant club, basketball skills and drills, 4H and much more. Child care in our area is very limited. The after school programming has been a blessing for many families in the community by alleviating the stressors that come with finding care as well as providing new experiences for many of our students that they may not have had otherwise. For example, our local Girl Scout troop had 6 active members at the beginning of the school year and now has a full troop of 16 girls. This is due to Girl Scouts now being offered in our afterschool programming which allowed the local troop to easily access the school building for meetings.

As a member of the PTO and a school volunteer, I have participated in the planning/ hosting of many community events ranging from touch a truck, our annual ziti dinner, family holiday night, You & Me Dance and our upcoming annual community BBQ. Our Cape Cod Hill Community participation is always astounding; with numbers well surpassing enrollment. The community is made up of a handful of small towns, with limited resources. Therefore the PTO and community volunteers have worked hard to provide experiences and community building opportunities that larger towns are able to offer their residents more freely. In turn we have created a tight knit community that revolves around Cape Cod Hill School.

The creation of the Cape Cod Hill Community School, has been an important investment in our school community for all involved. The investment into our small community school will continue to help our children thrive moving forward. Cape Cod Hill Community School is now the local hub of our community due to this funding. Please consider continuing to fund our State's community school programs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara Abbott Pinkham
New Sharon