

Valeria Steverlynck  
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Honorable Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,  
I am a member of RSU5 Board of Directors speaking in my capacity as a Freeport taxpayer. I testify today in favor of LD 651, with a proposed amendment: Reduce the threshold that triggers the use of the 3-yr students enrollment rolling average from 10% to 5%.

To put the 10% in context, RSU5 experienced a 3.23% drop this year (63 students), which is a very, very large drop for us, and which translated into accompanying \$150K loss in funding even when using a 1-16 teacher/student ratio (normally it is 1:17) to calculate ED 279 funding. I like to concept of ameliorating the impact of sudden enrollment decreases, but 10% is too great a drop, so much so that very few districts, if any, will ever get to benefit from the protections offered by LD 651.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valeria Steverlynck