

DRAFT

Representative Thomas Stanley
All other members of the House Ways and Means Committee

July 24, 2014

Dear Representative Stanley,

On July 23, 2014, the Lincoln School Committee voted to join MASS, MASC and MASBO in voicing its strong support for H. 3722. H. 3722 is a bill establishing an education mandate task force designed to examine and make sense of the extraordinary number of mandates school districts are required to adhere to each year. In addition to passing the bill, the School Committee urges the appointment of active school employees (district and building administrators and classroom teachers) to such a task force.

As a committee, we fully appreciate the excellent intentions of many of the mandates, and support those that focus on ensuring all students are in high quality learning environments. However, there are well over 100 mandated regulations and administrative reporting requirements that currently overwhelm school staff, divert necessary resources, and distract attention from our schools' primary mission: preparing students to succeed in a rapidly changing, highly competitive global economy.

On top of current requirements, there are currently more than 20 education-related bills before the House Ways and Means Committee. All but one of them, H.3722, advocate imposing additional regulations. Unless there is a task force to holistically examine education regulations, districts will be placed in the unfortunate position of treating these regulations as mere compliance exercises, negating any positive impact they were intended to have.

As outlined in the bill, H.3722 proposes establishing an eleven-member task force that, over the course of a year, would inventory all existing regulations and then recommend measures to streamline, consolidate, or eliminate specific mandates and/or reporting requirements that are outdated, duplicative, or inconsistent with current laws, regulations, and practices.

We would deeply appreciate your efforts to champion H. 3722 and bring it to a vote. Thank you for your continued support of our students and of the Lincoln Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Glass, Chair

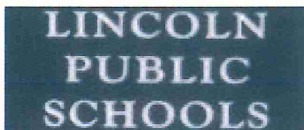
Tom Sander, Vice Chair

Preditta Ceden, METCO Representative

Tim Christenfeld, Member

Jena Salon, Member

Al Schmertzler, Member



Janice Gross <jgross@lincnet.org>

Fwd: Update on H.3722 (Education Mandate Task Force Bill)

1 message

Becky McFall <bmcfall@lincnet.org>
To: Janice Gross <jgross@lincnet.org>

Mon, Jul 14, 2014 at 4:23 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bruce Tretter** <brucetretter@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 3, 2014 at 10:48 AM
Subject: Update on H.3722 (Education Mandate Task Force Bill)
To: bmcfall@lincnet.org

July 3, 2014

Dear Becky,

Just a quick update about where we stand with H.3722 (An Act to establish an education mandate task force). The bill, which would start to make sense of the growing number of mandates and regulations our schools face, currently sits in the House Ways and Means Committee along with more than 380 bills, 21 of which are education related (20 of those proposed education bills would add more regulations/mandated tasks).

Three state representatives who represent sections of Westborough: Matt Beaton (Shrewsbury), Carolyn Dykema (Holliston), and Danielle Gregoire (Marlborough), met with House Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey (Haverhill) on Wednesday to advocate for making H.3722 a priority. Rep. Dempsey indicated that until that meeting, H.3722 was not on the House Ways and Means “radar screen”. Now it is, but **it will definitely need our help** moving forward.

Yesterday (Thursday), I visited the State House to talk with legislative aids and hand-deliver the “Unified Support” letter I’ve attached below to the offices of all 29 representatives on the House Ways and Means Committee. I also delivered the letter to House Speaker DeLeo’s and Governor Patrick’s offices.

As I mentioned in the last email, this legislative session ends July 31st. Time is short, and we have to make the most of it – or face having to refile and advocate for the same bill in the next 2-year legislative session.

I will contact you again early next week with the email addresses and phone numbers of all state representatives on the House Ways and Means Committee. I will also ask for 10-15 minutes of your time to make the effort to contact House Ways and Means Chairman Dmepsey, other members of the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as your town’s state representative.

I know you are inundated with emails. Thank you for reading this, and please connect with your colleagues so that as many of us as possible can take the action we need to take to help this bill pass this summer.

Hope you have a relaxing and fun July 4th!

Sincerely,

Bruce Tretter
Westborough

Bruce Tretter
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This message was sent to bmcfall@lincnet.org from:

Bruce Tretter | brucetretter@gmail.com | The Heart of Coaching for Educators | 144 E. Main Street |
Westborough, MA 01581

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This is the sample letter that was
sent to Becky.

Unified Support for H.3722

Dear Rep. _____:

MASS (Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents), MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) and MASBO (Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials) **strongly urge passing H.3722** (An Act establishing an education mandate task force) this legislative session and advocate for the inclusion of active school employees (superintendents, principals and/or teachers) on the proposed task force.

There are currently more than 20 education-related bills before the House Ways and Means Committee. All but one of them, H.3722, advocate imposing additional regulations to the well over 100 mandated regulations and administrative reporting requirements that currently overwhelm school staff, divert necessary resources, and distract attention from our schools' primary mission: preparing students to succeed in a rapidly changing, highly competitive global economy.

To put the problem in perspective, as reported by MASS Executive Director Tom Scott, based on information available on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website, between 1996 and 2008 (13 years), there was a total of **4,055 documents** (312 on average per year) that required action by local school districts in response to externally imposed mandates and regulations. That number increased drastically to a total of **5,382 documents** (an average of 1077 per year) between 2009-2013. As Ludlow Superintendent Todd Gazda wrote earlier this year, echoing the concern of his fellow superintendents: "How are we effectively supposed to implement local initiatives and meet the needs of our students when we are mired in this bureaucratic nightmare of a system?"

As outlined in the bill, H.3722 proposes establishing an eleven-member task force that, over the course of a year, would inventory all existing regulations and then recommend measures to streamline, consolidate, or eliminate specific mandates and/or reporting requirements that are outdated, duplicative, or inconsistent with current laws, regulations, and practices.

Considering that school staff are required to comply with all mandated regulations and reporting requirements, it is most necessary to ensure both policymaking credibility with schools across the state and process efficiency that the task force include active school employees as they are most qualified to evaluate the effect of mandated requirements on student achievement.

Education engages 30% of our population and is the frontline of our future. Passing H.3722 would be a positive step toward improving education efficiency. We look forward to helping you move H.3722 forward to eventual enactment this legislative session.

Thank you for your time.