

Jason Carnes  
Hampton Falls, NH  
March 25, 2026

**Subject: Opposition to SB101 – Request for Local Control and Capacity Protections**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB101 in its current form.

I understand and appreciate the intent behind expanding educational opportunity and increasing parental choice. However, this bill raises serious concerns for small, high-performing public schools like Lincoln Akerman School in Hampton Falls.

Lincoln Akerman is a small school with limited classroom capacity and resources. Its strength comes from small class sizes, strong community involvement, and a stable learning environment. These conditions are not accidental—they are the result of careful balance and local investment over time.

SB101, as written, risks disrupting that balance.

While the bill expands access, it does not provide sufficient safeguards for small districts to manage enrollment in a way that preserves classroom quality and student outcomes. In a small school setting, even minor shifts in enrollment or classroom dynamics can have a significant impact on the overall learning environment.

My primary concerns are:

- **Lack of clear capacity protections:** Small schools must have firm, enforceable limits on out-of-district enrollment based on actual classroom capacity—not loosely defined availability.
- **Loss of local control:** Districts should retain the authority to determine whether and how they participate in open enrollment policies.
- **Impact on existing students:** Policies must prioritize maintaining a stable and effective learning environment for students already enrolled.

This is not a question of denying opportunity to others. It is a question of ensuring that policies designed to expand access do not unintentionally degrade schools that are already working well.

I would strongly urge the committee to either oppose SB101 or amend it to include:

- Explicit caps on out-of-district enrollment for small districts
- Full local control over participation

- Protections to preserve classroom stability and resource balance

Without these safeguards, the bill places undue risk on small, high-performing schools and the students and families who rely on them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jason Carnes  
Hampton Falls, NH