

**HR-7**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 5:14:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to open two-way communication with the Superintendent or other DOE administration.

During this school year, communication has been at its worse, due to one-way communication, lack of communication, untimely communication, lack of clarity in communication, or no communication!

Whether it be students, parents, or community members , having an avenue like town halls could greatly decrease the gap between the DOE and the public.

The only option for students within the state public education system to voice their opinions and concerns directly to the Superintendent of Education and administration of the Department of Education is through testimony at the Board of Education meetings. However, even then only agenda items can be discussed.

Student voice includes their expertise, opinions, and ideas that are part of the school community. Students are considered the CUSTOMER!

Town halls need to be open to sharing ideas, plans, concerns, and provide feedback or follow up.

These are opportunities for student s to learn and practice civil participation.

Quarterly town halls are a beginning but they have to go hand in hand with communication!

If communication is not clear, quarterly town halls will be full of pent up tension, due to the lack of avenues for the community to communicate with the Department.