

Thank you, mister chair. Good afternoon everybody. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts today.

I'm Ken Fredette, from Wallingford, and also from the Friends of Vermont Public Education - savevtpubliced.org

I appreciate the clarification to the minutes of November 6th to the characterization of my statement about religious schools discriminating as a "claim" on my part, to simply that being what I "stated".

But the far greater issue is recommending organizations to have the power to accredit schools in Vermont that refuse to comply with our Public Accommodations Act, or disclose their financial records. I refer to SBE Rule 2227(a) 5, 8, and, as Mr. Jepson noted, 10.

I readily admit that I have not researched how the former version of 2227 read, but it seems to me any entity looking to keep their accreditation status would have taken the time to familiarize themselves with all of the revisions; according to my notes from November 6th Mr. Bralley stated something to the effect that he "...was not aware of Vermont standards."

While I know that this proceeding is not to "approve" private schools to receive public monies, as Mr. Bralley pointed out on the 6th, the fact remains, as I understand the process now, is that it checks off a box in that approval process, thereby greasing the skids for approval through "self accreditation". I see this as the proverbial "Fox watching the henhouse", or perhaps "The camel's nose"

I thank this committee for having been thoughtful and transparent in this proceeding. We all are aware that the political landscape here and nationwide changed dramatically earlier this month, and I now respectfully implore you to nip in the bud the potential chain of events that could follow authorization to any entities to accredit schools in Vermont that are known to discriminate, or refuse to show us their books.

Thank you.

Ken Fredette