

Thank you, madam chair. Good morning everybody.

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

Yesterday I watched Lilith Coke, representing the Seventh-day Adventists, repeatedly dance around questions regarding inclusivity during her testimony to the Independent School Approval Review Committee. One of her early responses was perhaps most telling - that they have "a *similar* commitment to diversity.." It was noted By Jenna O'Farrell that the Adventists' statement does not include all Vermont standards, and Lyle Jepson stated that the board would need to see statements in writing that do align with those standards. I respectfully submit that unless and until those statements have been recieved, it would be inappropriate to give authorization to accredit schools in Vermont to that, or any, organization.

I also point to the Compelled Support Clause of the Vermont Constitution - it doesn't say anything about money, it just speaks to supporting religious institutions in any way.

As for the other candidates being considered for authorization today, I am heartened by Rule 2227(a) 5, that says any schools to be accredited would have to make their finance information public, and I hope that moving forward that will be the case for all independent schools operating in Vermont.

Thank you.

Ken Fredette