Good afternoon, my name is Nathan Lavery and I am the Executive Director of Finance and Operations for the Burlington School District.

My understanding is that the analysis of categorical aid proposal is delayed. My hope is that this analysis compares the categorical aid proposal to the impact of the recommended weights. We all need this clarity to truly understand whether or not the categorical aid proposal sufficiently addresses the longstanding inequities in our funding model. In Burlington, our preliminary analysis suggests that the categorical aid proposal perpetuates the existing inequities in Vermont's funding model.

Fortunately, the legislature had the wisdom to commission an analysis of the equalized pupil weights. We know, to the best of our ability, what equitable weighting looks like. It would take an especially compelling argument to depart from the study's recommendations, given that doing so likely means allowing historically advantaged taxpayers to retain their advantages on the backs of students in underweighted districts. We don't need to perpetuate this inequity any longer. We just need your courage and leadership to enact the recommendations from the weighting study.

Thank you and good luck!