

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
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Committee on Education

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Hearing on H.B. 7353, An Act Concerning An
Alternate Route to Certification Program For Administrators

Co-Chairs Gaffee and Fleischmann, Senator Fonfara and Representative Genga, Senator Herlihy and Representative Hovey, and members of the Committee on Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 7353.

I would like to thank Committee Members for addressing a significant need in Connecticut. Creating an alternate route to certification for administrators would be addressing a serious pipeline issue in the years to come. We do not have enough highly qualified leaders for our schools without attracting accomplished individuals from other fields.

We can look to New Leaders for New Schools as an excellent example of how this alternate route to certification may be achieved without compromising Connecticut's high standards. Their model for training administrators is a performance-based model which evaluates aspiring leaders based on their record to date and future potential. The organization's track record in New York City is exemplary and should serve as the basis for the structuring of a program in Connecticut.

Since its inception in 2001, New Leaders for New Schools has had an impact on 150+ schools in participating cities (New York, Oakland, Washington DC and Memphis) addressing the needs of some 75,000 students. The principals that have gone through the program have shown impressive student gains in reading and math. Hartford Public Schools would benefit greatly in becoming a New Leaders for New Schools site.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I ask the Committee to vote in favor of this bill.