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State of Connecticut
General Assembly
Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: BILL # 7358

March 9, 2007

Dear Chairman Fleischmann, Chairman Gaffey and members of the Education Committee:

I am thrilled to hear that a public hearing regarding Bill # 7358, an act concerning gifted and talented students, is scheduled for March 12, 2007. As I will not be able to attend the hearing in person, please accept this letter as support for this exciting legislation supporting our gifted children.

I write this letter as both a parent of a gifted child and a person who has traveled extensively throughout the world (over 40 countries). I am genuinely concerned about US children competing in the international workforce in decades to come. My concern is also supported by research. As noted in the U.S. Department of Education website, www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/expanding-apip.html, American 15 year olds are ranked 24th out of 29 developing nations in the PISA test for mathematics literacy and problem solving.

I can see first hand through my child's development the critical need to advocate for gifted children. I believe a worthwhile goal of any education system is to teach our children how to think and solve problems. When any child is learning at their maximum capacity, the results speak for themselves. A renewed commitment to gifted and talented students, along with a curriculum based daily program taught by teachers who are trained in gifted education, is a critical component of this success.

Thank you very much for your support of Bill # 7358, an act concerning gifted and talented students. The future of our gifted children is an important goal to fight for and I thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,



Kathleen McGinnis

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:

Kathleen McGinnis

cc: Senator William H. Nickerson
cc: Representative Claudia M. Powers

Date:
3/12/07

Bill Number:

7358