

Education Committee Public Hearing

March 12, 2007

Testimony From: Marian Reid, RN  
441-24 South Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

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

My name is Marian Reid, RN. I would like to thank you for allowing RB# 7358: **AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS** a public hearing.

I am the parent of a nine year old son who is in a public school system that does not have a gifted education program. He is a quick learner who must sit through hours of repetition while teachers strive to make sure that "no child is left behind." I believe that all children have the right to have a full year's worth of learning for each year spent in school. Teaching gifted children and understanding their unique educational needs is a specialty that requires specific teacher training. I sent an eager, inquisitive child to kindergarten only to see the spark in his eyes start to fizzle due to the lack of educational stimulation in his school day. My husband and I have fought to have his curriculum differentiated, but my dream is that an individualized appropriate educational plan should be his right, just as it is for every "special education" student. Often I have heard it said that gifted children will do fine no matter what. This is far from the truth. These children suffer emotionally, as well as academically, when their needs are not met. I believe that we need to mandate that all schools have a gifted education specialist, that all teachers have mandated gifted education inservices, and that the state of Connecticut funds gifted education for all identified students.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Reid, RN

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: *e-mailed*  
*Marian Reid*

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