

Education Committee Public Hearing

March 12, 2007

Testimony From: **Warren H. Lilien**, 21 Shoal Point Lane, Riverside, CT 06878

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

My name is Warren Lilien. I first would like to thank you for allowing RB# 7358 : **AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS** a public hearing.

It is crucial for the state to mandate services and provide funding for gifted and talented students. These children need a part of their day devoted to their particular mindset. They reap great benefit by being in a classroom with like-minded peers. These children are different in so many ways and a forum which celebrates and teaches to these differences is essential to preserve/foster their self-esteem and intellectual development . **More importantly, in the competitive global economy our communities need to do whatever they can to foster creative and critical thinkers.** We do our society a tremendous disservice by assuming that gifted and talented students will continue to thrive absent educational opportunities geared toward their ability levels.

We want to ask the Education Committee for a "Joint Favorable Substitute" vote. This would move the bill forward, but would allow some needed revisions to be made before it is finalized.

These children have much to offer society in the years to come if they are challenged to their level of ability. Please set the groundwork to help them fulfill their potential.

Sincerely,

Warren Lilien

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:

Warren Lilien

Date:

3/12/07

Bill Number:

7358