

Friis, John

From: Allison K . Platt [akplatt@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 11:56 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Testimony - opposition S.B. No. 1142
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Education Committee

Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised S.B. No. 1142, Session Year 2009

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

Please accept this letter as testimony for my opposition to S.B. No. 1142:

AN ACT CONCERNING RELIEF OF STATE MANDATES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

To delay the implementation of the in-school suspension mandate until July 1, 2011; to change the date in which a teacher is notified that his or her contract will not be renewed from April first to May first; to require that providers of school readiness programs submit space allotment reports every other month; to establish that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing; to provide that a local or regional board of education's commitment to provide special education to a child terminates upon the child's twenty-first birthday; and to eliminate certain reporting requirements on local and regional boards of education.

My opposition to these portions of the Act before the Committee:

*1. **Burden of proof should remain with the District.** As a parent, of a child requiring Special Education services, I can testify to the struggles of advocating for my child. A district providing an appropriate program as required by IDEA has access to the data and proof needed to satisfy their burden of proof. Districts not providing an appropriate program should be held accountable for that. It is too important to ensure a free appropriate education for each child to risk the inability of the family to adequately satisfy that burden of proof. Our access to information is more limited.*

*2. **Students turning 21 prior to June of that school year should continue to receive services through end of the academic year (June).** It would be disruptive to a student of this age making a transition of this magnitude mid-academic year to have services disrupted.*

Thank you for your consideration of my position. Again, please do not change the current state regulation in connection with Burden of Proof in Special Education services. Please keep the current regulation for when special education services end.

3/23/2009

Sincerely,

Allison Platt

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