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Education Committee  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Attention: Sen. Thomas P. Gaffey and Rep. Andrew M. Fleischmann

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

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and the Education Committee members,

Please accept this letter as testimony for my opposition to S.B. No. 1142: AN ACT CONCERNING RELIEF OF STATE MANDATES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

I am writing you as a member of the Education Committee to express my objections to the proposed changes in the current regulations by the Connecticut Legislature per S.B. No. 1142, An Act Concerning Relief of State Mandates on School Districts. These proposed changes would have a profound and significant impact on special education services and appropriate programs provided for children with special education disabilities. The Connecticut regulations need to stay the same, placing the burden of proof on the school districts to prove and provide an appropriate program. These proposed changes would create a devastating burden on families with special needs children. I respectfully request the Educational Committee Representatives take careful consideration and compassion in making the right decision. Let us provide an appropriate education for all children regardless of their disabilities. Let us remember, the principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Let us be principled and responsible in representing the children and families.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this point of view. Let us do the right thing, keeping the current regulations in Connecticut for special education.

Respectfully,  
Ruthann N. Short, MSW, LCSW