

Friis, John

From: Suzanne Letso [letso@cccinc.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 2:38 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Testimony Re: Raised Bill 1142, Section 5 (b) OPPOSED

March 22, 2009

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair
Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding Raised Bill # 1142, Section 5 (b)
Relief of State Mandates on School Districts:

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleishmann, and Committee:

I am in strong opposition to Bill 1142, Section 5 (b). I wrote on Friday in opposition to section 4, (d) (1) as well. However, Section 5 changes the requirement for school districts to provide special education services at a child's 21st birthday rather than continuing to support students through the year of the 21st birthday as has been the case up until now. First, this legislation will live long past the fiscal crunch we find ourselves in and is detrimental to our population of special ed students and their families. Second, it will add to the state's responsibility to care for this population sooner than expected and will add to the cost of services at the state level. Essentially, the school districts are shifting the cost burden to the state without to the detriment of children and families – and taxpayers. Please vote "NO" on this section of this bill.

Yours truly,
Suzanne Letso
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Newtown, CT 06470