

EAST FARMS SCHOOL
25 WOLF PIT ROAD
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032

March 6, 2009

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

I oppose the proposed legislation that would transfer management of the CHOICE program to the Department of Education.

As the principal of East Farms School in Farmington, I have had the opportunity to work with Project Concern and presently Project Choice students and families for more than twenty-two years. During the past several years, the Project Choice staff under the management of CREC and its program director, Nessa Oram, has consistently provided a high level of service and responsiveness to students and families as well as to the concerns and needs of school personnel in supporting students.

Over these past few years, the Choice office has been responsive to the changing needs of families and schools. Their intervention specialists have elevated their level of services. Part of their success is their deep commitment to and knowledge of the Hartford community and its children.

Frankly, it is the bureaucratic nature of the operations of the State Department of Education that concerns me most. I am not confident that it has the capacity to work on the personal level and to act in a timely fashion on student matters. Working with the Project Choice office as currently managed is most akin to working with our own local central office.

Please acknowledge this letter as testimony in support of maintaining the CHOICE program as part of CREC. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Galluzzo
Principal