

Dr. John F. Shine
Superintendent
Diocese of Norwich Catholic Schools
Raised Bill 5421 – An Act Concerning Educators and Administrators
Education Committee
March 8, 2010

Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening. My name is Dr. John Shine and I am the Superintendent of the Diocese of Norwich Catholic Schools. I am here tonight on behalf of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents and the students and teachers of our fine educational establishments.

I am here to discuss Raised Bill 5421 – An Act Concerning Educators and Administrators. In particular I would like to address two provisions that impact all of Connecticut's private and religious schools.

The Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents supports to repeal of the language that eliminated experienced teaching in nonpublic schools as a means of obtaining Professional Educator Certification.

The Federation also supports permitting college students to obtain state certification by student teaching in a private or religious school as long as it is voluntary on the part of the student and University.

While it is not mandated by law, Catholic school teachers are required by the three (arch)dioceses to participate in professional development and all three offices are certified by the state to provide CEUs.

Private and religious schools receive Title II-A funds from No Child Left Behind for teacher training. In addition, all of the private and religious schools are coordinating a teacher seminar this spring. This program is being funded by \$120,000 from the State of Connecticut under NCLB guidelines and Title II-A funds. The same amount of funds has been allocated for 2010.

At least 20 states allow college students to obtain teacher certification by student teaching at a private or religious school. This includes our neighboring states of Massachusetts and New York.

As a former public school principal and Superintendent for over 40 years, I strongly believe both of these provisions will benefit our faculty and, more importantly, our students. Thank you.