

Stop Raised Bill No. 5425

March 4, 2010

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and Members of the
Education Committee,

I am writing to object to the language in Proposed Bill #HB 5425. The language states that the purpose of the bill is "to establish that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing." The current law states that the burden of proof is the responsibility of the school district to prove it has provided a "Free, Appropriate, Public Education" (FAPE) through the Individual Education Plan (IEP); this makes good sense because the school districts are in control of the records, staff, and the program. The proposed change would negatively impact families with children with disabilities in Connecticut, making it excessively costly and almost impossible for parents of students receiving special education services to have a fair hearing. We urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you,
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