

March 2, 2010
Testimony
H. B. 5165

Dear Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky and members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee:

My name is Barbara Skrebutenas. I have been an educator in the town of Wolcott for 31 years and am currently the immediate past president of the Connecticut Music Educators Association.

I am writing to urge your support for House Bill No. 5165 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS because it reflects the hard work of the education and business experts who served on the CT State Department of Education's Ad Hoc Committee that developed the CT Plan of Secondary School Reform, a document that was endorsed by the CT State Board of Education early last year.

This proposed increase to high school graduation requirements will without a doubt give our children a more rigorous education, one that better prepares them for the 21st century workplace.

As you consider such legislation and also its' financial impact on the states' school districts, please work to ensure that first and foremost any such legislation be designed in a way to guarantee that our students will be able to sustain 4 years of study in each of the six core academic areas as defined by the College Board and federal legislation, i.e.: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, and the Fine Arts.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Barbara Skrebutenas
Trumbull, CT