



## Torrington Board of Education

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Rep. Andrew Fleischmann  
Chair, Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Sen. Tom Gaffey  
Chair, Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 8, 2010

Dear Honorable Chairs,

This letter is being written in support of Raised Bill #5421 -- "An Act Concerning Educators and Administrators."

As a member of Teach For America (Baltimore 2000), a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University, a former principal, and current Superintendent, I strongly encourage you to move forward legislation that supports Alternative Routes to Certification.

In 2000, if not for the legislation in Maryland, I would not have been granted an opportunity to start a career in education. As a member of Teach For America, I taught a full schedule and also took a full graduate course load. I capitalized on that opportunity, earned dual degrees, and became a change agent in education. I returned to Connecticut in 2002 and continued my career before becoming the youngest Superintendent in Connecticut in December 2009. This result is only realized because of opportunity.

Bill 5421 allows opportunity for those that wish to be educators but might not have gone the traditional route. It is a step in the right direction for a state struggling to find dynamic leadership and fill vacancies while trying to close the ever present achievement gap. It is not the final answer but another step in the right direction that might yield short term and long term dividends.

In closing, when reviewing the language I only ask that you consider tying alternative routes to stringent curriculum that is based on research and results. We do not wish to lower the standard for excellence but to allow options for other professionals to enter the field of education.

Regards

Christopher Leone  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Representative Michelle Cook

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