

March 2, 2010  
Testimony  
S. B. 279

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleishman and members of the Education 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 you not to support Senate Bill No. 279 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS because it does not reflect the recommendations of education experts who served on the State Department of Education's Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Reform. Their CT Plan of Secondary School Reform was formally endorsed by our State Board of Education early last year.

S.B. 279 merely takes our current and outdated high school graduation credit requirements and tacks on 2 credits in World Languages. It does not begin to consider the entire package of preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace but rather focuses only on one special interest area, leaving the other subjects with sub-par requirements for today's education world.

I am also urging you to strongly support future legislation that does reflect the State Department of Education's 21st century reform recommendations which may include these same two credits in World Language study amongst much needed rigorous requirements in the other core subject areas.

Please ensure that any changes in graduation requirements be made only as part of the larger initiative of secondary school reform, and that any such legislation be designed to ensure that students are 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