

**STEVEN J. ADAMOWSKI**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Testimony of: Jill Cutler Hodgman, Esq.  
In support of: H.B. No. 5421  
AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**OPENING CHOICE:** Honorable Chairmen and Members of the Committee

**TEXT OF TESTIMONY / STATEMENT OF POSITION:**

My name is Jill Cutler Hodgman, Esq. I currently serve as the Chief Human Resources Officer for the Hartford Public Schools and have worked in the department of Human Resources for the past seven years. I am writing in support of **H.B. 5421, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.**

In my experience, we have lost the opportunity to hire effective school leaders who were qualified and experienced but lacked the opportunity to achieve appropriate certification for the role in the state of Connecticut. In our portfolio district, which is comprised of distinctive schools of choice, we have needs for leaders with specific areas of content knowledge outside of the education arena, e.g. culinary, engineering, nursing, journalism. The ability to develop such leaders through an alternative route program would be an important pool for future leaders in our district.

Further, more generally, we are undertaking an enormous effort to develop internal and external future leaders. These future leaders cannot always be those who went through the teaching ranks and then became certified administrators in Connecticut. They can be people who worked in education but not in the classroom or be experienced leaders in other fields or from other states. Further, we have stand out teacher leaders who are ready and able to take on school leadership roles but do not have the required educational credits to acquire administrative certification.

Our current certification rules require a qualified master teacher who taught at the college level or in private schools to perform student teaching prior to obtaining certification. This requirement essentially blocks those talented candidates from working in the public schools.

This bill would allow Hartford and other districts in Connecticut to recruit and hire the most talented candidates for our schools.

**ENDING:**

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me to provide written testimony in favor of this bill before you today and would be happy to make myself available, should you have any questions. **I ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT H.B. 5421, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.**