



**CONNECTICUT SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOC. INC.
213 BACK LANE
NEWINGTON, CT 06111-4204
(860)666-6900 Fax (860)667-0144**

e-mail (cscha.assoc@snet.net) web address (www.ctspeechhearing.org)

3/7/2010

Good Afternoon Mr. Gaffey, Mr. Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. My name is Joan McNulty and I am a member of the CT Speech Language and Hearing Association. (CSHA). I am writing regarding H.B. 5425, An Act Concerning Special Education.

I am concerned about changes proposed to reconstitute the State Advisory Counsel on Special Education, which is detailed in Section 1 (a).

Under the current language, CSHA is recognized as a standing member of the CT State Advisory Counsel for Special Education. The current legislation proposes to reduce from three members to one member the appointments made by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and removes explicit recognition of a CSHA representative on the Counsel.

While I appreciate the effort of the Education Committee to reduce the number of members on this counsel, it is imperative that a representative of CSHA continue to be a participating member of the Advisory Counsel for Special Education given our role in the special education process. The speech/language pathologist is an integral and mandated member of the special education team contributing to evaluations and the implementation of programs. A special education team counts on input from all members to serve the needs of our communities. It is appropriate therefore, that a CSHA continue to be a member of the CT State Advisory Counsel for Special Education.

Thank you for allowing me to share my position on HB 5425 which advocates for the continued membership of a CSHA representative on the State Advisory Council for Special Education.

Sincerely,

Joan McNulty, M.S, CCC-S
Speech/Language Pathologist
West Hartford, CT