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Dear Legislators

My name is Ellen Wright I am the PTO President of Hartford Transitional Learning Academy (HTLA). I'm here today testifying about S. B. 197 An Act Concerning School Suspensions. It would not be in the best interest of our children to delay this bill we already know that suspension are not the alternative to address disciplinary issues the only one being effected by this is our children. To delay it any longer will also mean more and more of our children will be expelled from school leaving our youth to be on the street to become potential Target for our correctional system. Please do not let them delay this bill, as a resident of the city of Hartford, PTO President at 2550 Academy (HTLA) I see too much of this daily while serving families and seeing the affect.

Unfortunately these parents that couldn't be here today but had a few comments they wanted me to share with you

One parent states that it doesn't make any sense being in a therapeutic school and all they can do is suspend students instead of finding other alternatives.

Another Parent says her son has been home for four months with nothing in place for him.

This parent fears even though her son has not been suspended much lately, if this bill is pushed back and her son digresses how the suspension will affect him, and the only reason her son has not been suspended is because of legal representation.

In close I would like to say If a child is suffering with a mental illness and or a disability we know that these are the children getting suspended on a regular basis, we have to think about this is not only affecting the child it also affects the family and their living situation parent ability to work achievement gaps if you are not attending school you cant access the curriculum, When you think about it budgetary wise it's going to cost the state in the long run.

When we discuss the achievement gap of urban student this is a major contributor. So I appeal to you as a parent grandparent and PTO President DO NOT DELAY THIS BILL!!!

With Sincere Thanks
Ellen Wright