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H.B. 6434 – An Act Concerning Educators and Administrators
Education Committee
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Members of the Education Committee, Chairman Stillman and Chairman Fleischmann. My name is Pamela Belury and I am the principal at St. Francis Xavier school in Waterbury.

As a former teacher and now an administrator, I am here tonight to address H.B. 6434, An Act Concerning Educators and Administrators. I would like to ask the committee member to support the language in the bill that repeals language that eliminated experienced teaching in nonpublic schools as a means of obtaining Professional Educator Certification.

Catholic school teachers partake in many of the same training classes as our public school teacher colleagues. The Hartford Archdiocese Office of Catholic Schools requires our teachers to receive 90 CEUs over a five-year period, we participate in professional development days and receive an evaluation every year. All new hires have to have a teaching certificate.

It seems wrong to us to exclude a group of teachers who educate 69,000 students in Connecticut because of where we teach.

We also strongly support the provision that would allow college students to student teach at private or religious schools. I would enjoy being able to share my many years of experience with a new group of teachers.

I do believe this program should be voluntary for the student and University and that mentors and administrators should have the same qualifications as our public school colleagues when working in this particular role.

The student teaching experience is one of the most important components of the teacher certification process. Allowing college students to student teach in a private or religious school setting would provide them with the skills to serve others and further the values and practices of their profession.