

**Testimony of Milly Arciniegas on Senate Bill 1160**

3/16/11

Good morning, Chairwoman Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and distinguished Senators and Representatives of the Education Committee.

My name is Milly Arciniegas, and I am the president of the Hartford Parent Organization Council (a coalition of 48 PTOs throughout the city of Hartford Public Schools). I was encouraged by the strengths of Senate Bill 1160, including:

- It allows for up to only one year for the teacher to demonstrate improvement once being identified as needing improvement
- It allows for a teacher's tenure status to be removed if they fail to complete the remediation plan

I was disappointed to see, however, that there is still no solution in this bill for the urgent issue of seniority-based layoffs. Districts such as Hartford, which have made significant gains thanks to their reform efforts, will be facing seniority-based layoffs this year that will affect our reform drastically. We have been able to withstand it for three years, but this year we clearly need your help to provide us with immediate flexibility to keep our best teachers in the classrooms.

Parents are working every day with their teachers, principals and the district to sustain the reform. But now we need this Education Committee to take corrective action and help us keep the teachers in whom we have already invested millions of dollars on professional development and specialized training.

We are in a state of urgency and we can no longer continue the status quo for one day longer. Our children have shown results and deserve our best efforts to allow them to continue to succeed.

Thank you for your time.

Milly Arciniegas