Hello Education Committee Members,

I am writing to you this evening in support of H.B. 6501 and to request that this bill be **amended** to specifically state that the SRBI process **can not** delay a comprehensive evaluation or eligibility determinations for special education.

I have three boys; two of them have received special education services since early elementary school. My one son was out placed during fourth grade. As a parent of children with disabilities, I can not adequately convey to you the range of emotions that you feel as a parent having to come to terms with your children being "different" and then having to learn how to navigate the special education system. I feel very lucky that we live in a district with excellent schools and that my children are protected by federal laws. My older son is in 10th grade now and successfully managing high school, and we are feeling like my other son, who's in 8th grade, may be ready to come back to public school. I am fortunate that my school system worked with me early on in helping to identify their needs and implementing the strategies that have helped them become successful. I know their success is directly related to the early implementation of these interventions. Even in the best of situations, the special education road can be a struggle. It is well documented that **early intervention** is the key to a child experiencing success. The last thing our children need is a delay in the implementation of services. If H.B. 6501 is not amended, it will be a disservice to all those children who struggle with disabilities.

I will be attending the hearing on Monday. Your support of this bill is vital. Please support H.B. 6501, so that our most vulnerable children can get the support they need.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Lisa Nee

Madison, CT