

Testimony of Marc P. Delmonico
H.B. 6627, An Act Concerning a Tax Credit for Corporate Donations to Scholarship
Funds
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 28, 2010

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Marc P. Delmonico a Catholic School parent and a member of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents, and I am here today to speak in support of H.B. 6627, An Act Concerning a Tax Credit for Corporate Donations to Scholarship Funds.

I have two daughters attending St. Ann School in Bridgeport. CT.

The 37,000 students attending Catholic schools in the state of Connecticut save our cities and our state over \$400 million per year. In total, almost 60,000 students attend a private or religious school in Connecticut, which saves Connecticut's taxpayers over \$700 million a year.

The tax credit proposal would offer tax incentives to companies that want to support education and provide immediate assistance to lower and middle income children who want to attend a private or religious school. In addition, it would save the taxpayers of Connecticut an estimated \$5 million a year.

Private and religious school enrollment has decreased 3% this school year, which costs the taxpayers of our state over \$20 million.

Catholic Schools provide an excellent alternative in cities where the public education system does not meet the standard of many parents who want to provide an excellent education for their children so they can grow and prosper in this great country of ours. This bill would allow parents who are unable to afford a Catholic Education the financial means to attend one of these fine schools.

Let me stress that Catholic Schools provide a quality education to Catholics and Non-Catholics alike. Their scores on standardized tests and SAT's exceed those of the Public School System. Statistics show the 98-99% of the Students of Catholic Schools go on to college. I think it is in the best interest of Connecticut to have a highly educated youth, schooled in values and hard work thus making them solid contributing citizens.

Financial assistance from the state would provide more opportunities for students to attend religious or private school. It is my hope you can support this initiative that will help our schools and most importantly Connecticut's children.