

**Testimony of Joanne Avoletta and Attorney Deborah G. Stevenson  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 21, 2011  
In Opposition to Resolution H.J. No. 36- Avoletta vs. ST of CT. Department of Education**

My name is Joanne Avoletta from Torrington, CT. I'm here today to oppose the Claims Commissioners decision on file # 21101, 21102 & 21103 to dismiss my claims on behalf of my children against the State of CT. Dept. of Education. My children were harmed by unsafe, damp, moldy building conditions at the Torrington Public Schools such that their doctors said it was medically contraindicated for them to attend there. My first son suffered irreversible lung damage and chronic inflammatory intestinal health issues. He was a failure to thrive. My second son suffered severe asthma, allergies and other ailments but avoided irreversible damage when we followed doctors recommendations to keep them out of those schools.

The Torrington Public School District did nothing to accommodate them and I was forced to place them into private school. The Public School District failed to provide them with a free appropriate public education in a safe school setting, discriminating against them due to their disabilities.

I'm here to ask you to overturn the Claims Commissioner's decision. Among the many reasons why you should do so is because of a new State Supreme Court ruling that came out after the Claims Commissioner's decision. That new court case makes all the difference.

I'm represented by Attorney Deborah Stevenson as my children's education attorney however she was not able to attend today because she had to be in court and the date could not be changed. At this time, I would like to read her letter because it explains the importance of that court case.

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3/11/11

State Senator Eric Coleman, Co-Chair  
State Representative Gerald Fox, Co-Chair  
Members of the Committee  
Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: H.J. No. 36, Resolution of the Claims Commissioner to Dismiss the Claims of Joanne,  
Peter and Matthew Avoletta,**