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Public Hearing HB~~5691~~⁵¹²⁰, an Act Concerning Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies for Adopted Children.

February 8, 2011

Good Afternoon Committee Chairs and Members of the Committee. My name is Sharon Major. I reside in the town of Hebron and have three adopted grandchildren. Thank you for the opportunity to support the House/Senate Bill 5691, An Act Concerning Postsecondary tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies for Adopted Children. As a public school teacher for 25 years and a mother of four daughters, I greatly understand the importance of every child having the opportunity to receive a college education. I can think of no other goal or gift in life, other than good health, which is more important for a child's future.

The children addressed in this bill have had a very difficult beginning to their lives. When they are able to rise against adversity and seek a better life for themselves through supportive adopted parents, why would there ever be any question about the financial support for them? The work place is very competitive and we need to provide them with the tools so that they can be successful.

Therefore I urge everyone who has the ability to pass this act to do so. My concern is not only for my own grandchildren, but all other children in this situation as well. Part C of this previous bill supports foster children being funded, so why shouldn't previous foster children have the same opportunity even though they have since been adopted?

The state of Connecticut has the second worse record in the U.S. for adopting children in foster care. Don't you think it would be desirable to at least provide college funds for these children. In a difficult economy this would definitely take the pressure off adopting parents.