

March 5, 2012  
Testimony of Jennifer Gadow  
For the Education Committee  
H.B. 5352: An Act Concerning Student Centered Learning

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Greetings Senator Stillman, Representative Fleishmann, and distinguished members of the Education Committee, this testimony is submitted by Jennifer Gadow, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

I am testifying in support of Raised House Bill 5352, which will promote the personalization of student learning.

I am currently a second year Masters of Social Work student at the University of Connecticut. During my time with this program, I have been studying policies that will benefit different populations, including the homeless, veterans, and military families to name a few. My involvement with military families has both been professional and personal. I am a military spouse and we have two children that are currently in the public school system in Connecticut. Although I am testifying as graduate student today, I am also testifying as a military spouse and parent.

I have found that children who move frequently often suffer because their continuity of care in school is often disrupted. Once they start at their new school, they have to learn how the new system works, how the teachers are, and often, these children may be behind in some areas and advanced in others depending which state or region they are coming from. Additionally, these children are often taken out of the school system within three years and have to start all over again. This disruption can wreck havoc on their grades. The opportunity to be involved in a school system that promotes the personalization of learning would benefit all children and particularly those in military families, because it would offer them an opportunity to be viewed as individuals with individual needs and not as one of the many. Often, military children are stigmatized and at times, it can be seen in schools and how they handle the specific issues military children deal with, such as frequent parental deployments and moves. The personalization of learning will allow these children to feel that they are being heard and their educational needs are met.

I support HB 5352. I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. Please let me know if you have any question or would like additional information.

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