

Remarks of Dr. Margo Schiff  
Teacher  
Fairfield Public Schools

For the Education Committee  
On Senate Bill 24

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS  
Sections 28, 29 and 30

Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Margo Schiff, and I am a teacher in the Fairfield Public School system where I have taught for over 30 years. I would like to comment on Senate Bill 24 sections 28-30. I feel that it lowers the standards that teachers meet to maintain their professional status and allows inexperienced teachers to teach our children. The governor's proposals about certification replace objective standards with a system that ties subjective local evaluations by principals to both teachers' certification and renewable tenure. Districts would have to base salary schedules on the governor's new certification levels, not on education and experience as is done now. Boards of Education would have the incentive to set lower salaries for teachers. Moving from one level of certification to the next would be based on a principal's evaluation, not taking into account experience and advanced degrees. Teachers' ability to hold a license to work would be determined by one person's judgment. Evaluation ratings are also based on one person in a district.

I would urge the committee to reconsider Senate Bill 24. As a voter in Connecticut I will support the candidates that have heard teachers on this issue and have acted accordingly.