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State Representative Michelle Cook
Legislative Office Building
Room 4044
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Re: Stand Up and Defend Educators!

Dear Representative Cook:

Today I write as a constituent and a voter with an important message and an urgent request. As a teacher in the State of Connecticut for the past 15 years and a parent for 8 of those years, I have grave concerns about both the course of public education and the future of my profession. Governor Malloy has proposed changes to Connecticut's educational system that I believe are, at best, ill-conceived and, at worst, dangerous and counter-productive.

Specifically, I encourage you to reject proposals in SB 24 (the Governor's education bill) that would weaken collective bargaining, establish renewable tenure, link teachers' licenses and tenure to supervisor evaluations, and unfairly shift new funding away from local public schools. As I consider these measures, I believe them all to be counter-productive and counter-intuitive. If our goal is to attract and retain qualified, effective professionals, these impending changes will accomplish the exact opposite. Teachers who form strong bonds with evaluators will be safe in their positions—regardless of their credentials or effectiveness. Qualified, educated teachers will turn away from education and toward another means of earning an income (as I have already seen happening in my own school). And, finally, those of us who became teachers out of a desire to serve the public and pursue a passion will feel further demoralized.

Please take a stand and help my voice be heard. Encourage the governor to allow educated professionals to determine the course for the educational system going forward. All of our futures depend upon making wise—not reactive—choices in the best interest of our state's children.

Concerned,

Shannon L. Perreault