

*Remarks of Cindy Tellmann-Caruk
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West Hartford Public Schools*

**Before the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS
Section 30, *Teacher Evaluation***

February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Cindy Tellmann-Caruk, and I'm a Science teacher in West Hartford. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24, Section 29.

I have worked as a science teacher for the past ten years and prior to that worked in clinical and research labs. I am horrified by the Governor's belief that my job is essentially that of a glorified babysitter. The job of a teacher is no longer to stand in front of a classroom dispensing knowledge, and giving the occasional test. I spend numerous hours creating and correcting: labs, hands-on learning activities, computer based learning opportunities, and projects. These are all designed to meet students' diverse learning needs, and support what our current educational research defines as best practices. I am not a glorified babysitter.

However, I believe that Governor Malloy wants to replace me with one. He is calling for the end of a master's degree requirement and high objective state standards for teachers. Instead, teachers would be judged subjectively. This will lead to a decrease in qualified teachers. Additionally, with subjective evaluations and the loss of tenure, teachers will no longer be able to voice openly their concerns in education. They will be essentially silenced by fear of losing their jobs. How is this going to help our children learn and grow? I ask that you involve us in the process and work collaboratively to determine what is best for our children.