



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE RUSSELL A. MORIN**  
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COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of  
HB 5357  
An Act Concerning a Deaf Child Bill of Rights

Chairman Fleishman, Chairwoman Stillman and the members of the Education Committee, I am testifying today in support of HB 5357 An Act Concerning a Deaf Child Bill of Rights.

A Deaf Child Bill of Rights requiring that an individualized education program for a child who is deaf or hearing impaired include a language and communication plan would substantially help these students to be more successful in their studies. This bill will help close the achievement gap for those students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Constituents of mine contacted me about the need for this type of legislation. They believe that we need to add to what is already in the bill before us today a provision that would ensure that each child's chosen language and communication mode is respected, along with a data tracking system to track their achievement. We would also request that language be added to the bill requiring that a teacher of the deaf/hearing impaired be present at each PPT. Meeting the individual language and communication needs of each child who is deaf or hard of hearing is vital to their success, and including these measures would further increase more positive outcomes.

This legislation will enable deaf and hearing impaired students to be able to succeed and have the same success and their peers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell A. Morin".

Russell A. Morin  
State Representative