

Remarks of Alyce Loesch
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Before the Education Committee
On Senate Bill 24, Sections 29, 30, 31, 33
(Tenure, Teacher Evaluation, Salaries, Waivers)
February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Alyce Loesch, and I'm a teacher in Stamford, CT. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24.

The proposed Bill # 24 is fraught with inconsistencies: lack of due process, parity between the school districts of the state of Connecticut and clear and concise terms of evaluation.

This bill chooses to ignore the professional life of an educator. It ignores the accomplishments, recognitions, and performance achieved over a lifetime of professional effort and growth. In the private sector a business professional is never asked to surrender his/her past accomplishments yet this bill does. It forces established professionals to be judged for certification status as if they had no professional history. This is an unfair practice that challenges the due process rights of the United States.

Bill 24 creates a dual system of education in the state of Connecticut, one group of schools passing and the other failing. Attached to these labels are a series of differences between work standards for Connecticut educators. The Network System creates an environment that leads to poor morale, flight of the best in the system and the voice of those who would be student champions silenced due to fear of reprisal.

Bill 24 creates a new evaluation system that is not described with detail and clarity. How can any of you, as the protectors of the people of Connecticut, vote for a bill that lacks specific terms and details? Please do not do what Nancy Pelosi suggested, pass the bill so you can understand it. I would expect much more from the Legislators of the state of Connecticut.

I have been a proud and successful educator in this state. There is much I can applaud in this bill but the lack of due process, the lack of parity between districts, and the failure to recognize one's previous professional life is unacceptable. Please do not vote for this bill, Connecticut can do better.