



CONNECTICUT
FEDERATION
OF CATHOLIC
SCHOOL PARENTS



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S.B. 24, An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness
Education Committee
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Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents and the students and teachers of our fine educational establishments.

I am here to discuss S.B. 24, An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness. In particular, I would like to address sections of the bill that would impact Catholic schools.

Section 26 addresses a new teacher certification process. We would ask for some clarification on Section 26 subsection 4 (B) which allows nonpublic school teachers to obtain a professional educator certificate with one of the qualifications being the attainment of tenure. Our teachers do not attain tenure, they are employed at will. We would ask for language that would

exclude tenure for nonpublic school teachers to qualify for this level of certification.

We are very concerned about Section 26 subsection 5 which creates a “Master Educator Certificate”, but excludes nonpublic school teachers from obtaining certification. We believe this provision will harm the ability of our schools to retain highly qualified teachers and impact the quality of education provided to our students. It seems unreasonable to disqualify a group of teachers because of where they teach. Nonpublic school teachers should be eligible to obtain this level of certification.

We feel it discriminates against nonpublic school teachers, since it exempts them even if they have obtained the required masters degree, the required number of exemplary evaluations, and have numerous years of teaching experience -- they are ineligible to qualify for the “master educator certificate.”

We would like to stress that we can assist the state in achieving its goals of early childhood education contained in Section 35. Most of our schools have outstanding preschool programs in place, with certified teachers. We would strongly support this initiative and look forward to working with the State Department of Education.