

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY**

SUBJECT MATTER: Education Issues

**S.B. No. 24 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL
COMPETITIVENESS.**

As the owner of a large, Christian based day care and preschool program, I have some concerns regarding the direction that education in Connecticut is heading. My primary concern is the limitations that our government is imposing on families regarding the education of their children. I am a strong supporter of choice in education, particularly school voucher programs.

The concept of allowing parents to choose the direction of their child's education seems to me to be a basic right and responsibility of parents and families. No one has a more vested interest in a child's success than his or her parents. As a matter of practicality, school vouchers have been very successful in the states where these programs are being implemented for several reasons; providing competitive options is the key factor to their success. Competition has been the foundation of prosperity of our free economy, and introducing competition into the public school system improves the quality of education for the public school students as well as the private school students.

Beyond economic prosperity, religious freedom has been the very core of our social fabric. It is what sustains us to flourish even in economic downturns. In our age of over-the-top political correctness, Christianity and religious freedoms in general have been imposed upon by government policy and even the public school system. It is time for legislators to take a stand to protect our religious liberties and return to families (including low-income families) the right to educate their children according to their own culture and faith if they so choose.

Thank you, Janet Settle
Little House in the Country Child Care
Ellington