

*Remarks of Jill Bracksieck  
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**Before the Education Committee  
On S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS  
Section 28**

**February 21, 2012**

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Jill Bracksieck, and I'm a K-6 Math Coach in New Milford, CT. I am commenting on Senate Bill 24, Section 28.

I am writing to voice my deep concern over Governor Malloy's education plan and the effect it will have on at least a generation of our state's children. As a classroom teacher, and then as a university supervisor of student teaching and now as a district math coach, I have had the privilege of working with a wide array of teachers in several districts. In my current position I am in contact with every K-6 teacher in my district. These teachers have adapted to IDEA, NCLB, SRBI, and are now learning how to implement the Common Core State Standards in their classrooms. I am continually impressed by the way that they tackle the ever-changing landscape with intelligence, dedication, flexibility and a sense of humor.

With all the new mandates and initiatives, plus the far-reaching impact of technology on our society, teaching is an ever-evolving science. Teaching today requires intelligence and a high level of education. The teachers I know want to implement best practices. They want to learn how to effectively differentiate instruction, utilize technology and implement the standards. I know this because my job is to coach and mentor teachers on all these components of teaching. Teachers are not required or pressured to ask for my assistance, they come to me because they want to improve their craft and help their students succeed. Contrary to Governor Malloy's public statement, most teachers do not enter the profession so they can "just show up," it is not for the summers off, and it is certainly not to become rich. Most teachers teach because they love to learn themselves and want to share their love of learning with children.

If Malloy's bill passes, many teachers who would pursue advanced degrees will no longer be financially able to do so. Paying for advanced degrees has strained our family budget for years. We are still recovering, but being compensated financially for our degrees has made it possible for both my husband and I to attain our master's degrees and take on leadership roles in our districts.

In our increasingly global, technological society, who do we want teaching our children? Do we want life-long learners, professionals who are involved in creating and revising education policy, or do we want people who enter the field because they have few other options, people who try

teaching but find the arbitrariness of the evaluation and compensation systems to be frustrating to the point of leaving the profession?

I deeply fear that this bill will create a climate of apathy and anxiety, competition instead of cooperation among teachers, and a system rigged for failure, all to the benefit of the for-profit corporations poised to take over failed schools and the futures of our children.

As both a parent and a teacher I implore you to listen to the life-long learners, all the voices of the teachers of your children, who are asking you to very carefully consider the full implications of this bill on the future of all our children.

Thank you.