

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

**February 21, 2012**

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

Teacher tenure is a phrase that has been hotly contested around the country. I have heard that Governor Malloy believes that all a teacher has to do is just show up for four years to earn tenure. He has also mentioned that once a teacher secures tenure, they now have job security and are careless about their job.

As a teacher for eight years in the Bridgeport Public Schools and now a teacher for two years in the Trumbull Public Schools, I know that Governor Malloy's comment couldn't be farther from the truth. Teacher tenure does not protect the bad teachers and keep them in their jobs; instead, teacher tenure protects the good teachers and allows them to continually do an outstanding job educating tomorrow's leaders.

It is the teacher who is in the forefront of education. It is the teacher who is the first line on the field. It is the teacher who is with the students for the most amount of time during the school day. It is the teacher who must be able to trust their instincts and speak out when something is going wrong in the classroom and the district. Without teacher tenure, the teacher loses his or her important voice. We can't let that happen.

In my eight years at Warren Harding High School, I went through thirteen different principals. Is my future in teaching supposed to rely on each individual principal who walks through the front door? Without tenure and during the difficult transition periods in the building, I would have had a sense of the unknown about my future. This unknown would have taken my spark.

Ultimately, I am frightened for the future of education in Connecticut under the leadership of Governor Malloy. I show up every day to Trumbull High School not because I am paid to be there or because I have job security; I show up because I love being a teacher. I do not leave at 2:35 pm like my contract allows. I do not take my full lunch every day like my contract allows. Why, you might ask? The answer is simply the children. I am there for the children. I am a professional with advanced degrees and am giving the children the best education possible. With Malloy's plan, a college graduate with no advanced degree or training could replace me tomorrow. Again, this unknown would take my spark away.

I would like to urge the Committee to support Connecticut teachers, students, and families by supporting teacher tenure and education, rather than Governor Malloy's plan.

Thank you for reading my testimony.