

*Remarks of
Lisa Weand
Connecticut Teacher*

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

February 21, 2012

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

I am writing this letter in regard to Governor Malloy's proposed Education Reform Bill.

I am currently a special education teacher half way through my second year of teaching. As a new teacher, I have benefitted from advanced degrees and the support and mentorship of experienced colleagues. Under the new proposal, I feel that teachers will no longer be encouraged to advance their learning and obtain higher degrees. From first hand experiences, I can attest to the fact that this will hinder the growth of teachers new to the field.

Teachers join the profession because of their love of teaching and their desire to watch students grow and flourish. This is done through innovative, multi-modality lessons, differentiated instruction (especially for students with disabilities), and by introducing students to the multi-sensory world around them. I feel that by implementing this bill, students' education will be geared towards learning how to successfully pass a test, instead of learning about a well-structured curriculum, their world, and themselves. They will learn to regurgitate responses, instead of making connections and becoming free thinkers.

By implementing this bill, the future for new teachers and students is looking bleak. Students will only know their worth if they are deemed successful on mastery tests. Students with disabilities may never know the huge strides they are making, because they will not be seen as successful in their school's eyes. In addition, new teachers will be deterred from the profession, because they will be limited in what they can teach. Students will be deprived of wonderful teachers.

I strongly urge you to vote against this bill and keep the high quality education of our state intact.

Thank you.