

*Remarks of
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**Before the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS
Section 29, Teacher Tenure**

February 21, 2012

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

My name is Matthew Hoyt, and I'm a science teacher in Wilton, CT. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24, Section 29, Teacher Tenure.

I've been teaching for 6 years in CT and was excited and relieved to receive my tenure status. In these economic times, being a new father, and a new home owner, the protection offered under tenure was a welcome relief from some of the stresses that my situation poses.

I pushed for the past two years to get my masters in education to meet the state requirements, improve my salary, and most of all to improve my teaching. Like many of my colleagues I am excited about learning and feel that it is a lifelong process and I would like to continue to share this passion with the students I teach.

The proposed changes to the tenure status in this state have made me reconsider my career path. This is a career that is often thankless, stressful, time consuming, and highly underpaid. The protection that is offered by tenure is one of the few perks that we as teachers have. To take that away, based on a few teachers who are not being properly supervised, is a slap in the face.

Most teachers whom I know are aware that tenure is not a guarantee, but an achievement that requires constant reevaluation both by the teachers and administrators. The few who take advantage of this long-standing protection should be dealt with on an individual basis, and administrators should be held accountable for allowing abuses of this privilege and for not documenting sub-par performance.

I urge the committee to leave the tenure status as is, and focus their energies on reforming the frequency and methods of evaluation that school administrators are using, or in many cases not using.