

*Remarks of Michele Reveruzzi white
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For the Education Committee
On Senate Bill 24, An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness

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My name is Michele Reveruzzi White and I'm a teacher in East Hartford at The International Magnet School.

I first knew that I wanted to become a teacher when I was eight years old. I dreamed this, not because of the pay check or for the vacation days, but for the enormous impact that teaching has on future generations. Teaching is one of the most rewarding and gratifying professions in today's society. As an educator, I take great pride in nurturing young students to become well rounded and versatile. I take great care to look at the whole child and not just their academic performance, but also their social and emotional well-being. I am committed to my career's integral responsibility to provide children with learning experiences that will enrich their lives and instill a love of learning.

The proposed changes to education will not be an effective way to enhance teacher performance or student achievement. Teaching is not a business and should not be run as such. Teachers work with human beings and a plethora of societal conditions that create situations and impact student performance in ways outside of the educator's control. As such, it is punitive to apply a business-based commission model to teacher pay. This proposal will create a high turnover rate and discourage quality educators from entering the education field. I firmly believe that this proposal will lead to unethical behaviors and practices from administrators and teachers. Teacher salaries should not be solely based upon teacher performance, student achievement and parent evaluations. This proposal does not lead to transparent and open communication with students and families from fear of negative feedback and parent surveys. It will be very difficult for teachers to use best practices under the high stress that factors such as the uncertainty of job security and teacher tenure will create. This Bill will create a very stressful work environment which will have detrimental effects on the classroom environment and staff morale.

In closing, I am passionate about my profession and the impact I have on the lives I touch daily. I am also passionate about providing children and families with an equal opportunity to succeed. I strongly believe that both teachers and children need a fair chance and an equal opportunity to be successful, regardless of the affluence or lack thereof in the district in which they teach.