

Testimony for the Education Committee from
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February 21, 2012

I applaud the Governor's and Commissioner Pryor's attention to programs of teacher preparation in the State of Connecticut in **Governor's Bill 24: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**. As the Chairperson of the University of Haven's Department of Education, I agree that institutions of higher education ("IHEs") can and should make changes to allow both higher quality and a more diverse pool of candidates into the field. I would like to respond specifically to two items in your current proposal:

1. Raising the entrance GPA of teacher candidates is a necessary step, but insufficient if it does not also include alternative routes for potential candidates (e.g. veterans, students whose undergraduate degrees are more than 10 years old). Further, if the entrance GPA is changed, the rules regarding how IHEs work around those rules should be tightened so that we all follow the spirit of the law, as well as the letter.
2. The tuition forgiveness grants are a great idea, and again, must be coupled with significant changes in priority school districts. Few teachers will stay in urban schools one day past their required period if the schools in which they work are part of the same broken system.

Finally, I'd like to add one of my own suggestions: make it a priority to work with unions to rework the salary, evaluation, and governance structures of the highest need districts to encourage men and underrepresented minorities into those jobs. There's much research to show that men rarely move into low-paid, low-status careers, and frankly, teaching is one of those. As William Bagley said, "When will men who would never for a moment encourage their own sons to enter the work of public schools cease to tell us that education is the greatest and noblest of all human callings?" We can change this, but it will take concerted effort. I am glad to be part of it.