

**Submitted to the Education Committee
On Senate Bill 24, Section 29
(*Teacher Tenure and Teacher Evaluation*)**

February 21, 2012

Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischman, and members of the Education Committee, my name is Paul Courtois, and I'm a Social Studies teacher in Vernon. I am submitting my comments on Senate Bill 24, Section 29.

Senate Bill 24, Section 29(e) (1) authorizes contract termination for any teacher who receives a single "below standard" evaluation, tenure status notwithstanding. (see SB 24, pg. 109, lines 3333-3341). This change would put my future in the hands of a first-year administrator who has spent less than two hours observing my classroom. The administrators in my building are extremely busy with a number of pressing issues. Evaluations of teachers often, due to emergencies, fall to the bottom of their "to do" list. In the seven years I have been teaching, there have been seven changes to the administration. How can anyone expect a new administrator to effectively evaluate a teacher he or she does not have adequate time to observe?

How can the career of an educator be dependent upon his or her performance during one class period? Haven't there been days when you have not been at your best? Have health or personal issues ever hindered your work performance? Should a teacher lose his or her career because one of these days happens to coincide with an observation?

Senate Bill 24 will not make positive changes to the Connecticut education system. This bill, if passed into law, will have a negative effect on our schools.

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