

*Remarks of
Robert Keplesky
Vernon School District*

**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.

My name is Robert Keplesky, and I'm a math teacher in Vernon, Connecticut. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24, Sections #26 - 28, 29, 30 - 33, and 37 - 49. I urge all legislators to read CEA's proposals on these issues before voting on them. I am particularly insulted by Governor Malloy's callous remarks on tenure; in over 30 years of public service I've never once felt I had a job for life. I am also alarmed by his proposal that my livelihood depend solely on the evaluations of my administrators and student grades. I have had several administrators evaluate my teaching performance over the years, and while all of them have been favorable or exemplary, none of these evaluations were conducted in the same way. To suggest that student grades, especially at the high school level, are **solely** a result of the interactions between the teacher and students in the classroom fails to understand the other dynamic factors involved, such as student motivation and preparation, and community support. Also, I don't think Connecticut will attract or retain quality teachers if every few years teachers are made to feel unappreciated by their state government, or feel their retirement is threatened.

Thank you.