

Remarks of Sandra VanAusdal
World Language Teacher
Joel Barlow High School

For the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS
March 12, 2012

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the
Education Committee:

My name is Sandra VanAusdal and I am a World Language Instructional Leader
at Joel Barlow High School in Redding CT.

I would like to share my views on SB 24, Governor Malloy's education reform bill. Of course, I believe that teachers should be evaluated regularly. Indeed, they have been entrusted with the challenge and the privilege of instructing, mentoring and guiding children and, for this reason alone, accountability is essential. We all know that education's greatest asset is a legion of high quality teachers. In the high school where I have taught World Languages for the past 16 years, a great deal of emphasis is placed on such quality. Our district offers professional development and encourages us to continually deepen not only our pedagogical skills, but also our content knowledge. By doing so, we are in a better position to shape content into subject matter that will be effective and engaging to our students. Our administration values our professional conversations and they have instilled us with a sense of clear-sighted agency. Every day we dare to pose essential questions about quality instruction and best

practices. Our voices are crucial in order for authentic learning to take place. I fear that the proposed bill will crush this spirit among the very people who can provide perhaps the best perspective for meaningful and successful learning. I would like to urge you to consider revising this plan so that the voices of the teachers are heard.