

*Remarks of Suzanne and John Gaskell
Teachers
Madison Public Schools*

**For the Education Committee
On Senate Bill No. 24
Sections 28, 31 and 33**

February 21, 2012

We are Suzanne and John Gaskell, and we are teachers in Madison.

We all see the need for Educational Reform. However, many of the proposed changes in this bill, such as abolishing collective bargaining, minimizing teachers' voices in the educational decision making process and reducing the required educational level of teachers are cost cutting measures masquerading as educational reform. If these contentious measures are not removed from the bill, the much needed reform will be a long time in coming and teachers will be further demonized by the press for not supporting educational reform.

In these difficult economic times, we recognize that we may need to take an honest look at creative ways in which we can reduce the cost of education. Reducing the bottom line, however, should not be confused with educational reform and we strongly urge Governor Malloy to address collective bargaining and other cost cutting measures in a separate bill.