

Remarks of  
Position  
School district

Before the Education Committee  
On Senate Bill 24, Section **Whole Bill**  
**Teacher Evaluation and Teacher Tenure**

February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischman, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Albeert Ciuffo , and I'm a Special Education teacher in Stamford . I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24, Section .

As a Special Education teacher in Connecticut for 39 years, the many teachers I have worked with during my tenure we have been saying education needs change. Till now that has fallen on deaf ears.

I am writing today to the education committee with reference to the proposed Senate Bill #24 regarding Education Reform of Connecticut Public Schools. It is my belief that the proposals of the members of the Association of Superintendents and Governor Malloy are both Flawed. The flaws in both proposals are clear to myself and other teachers and parents of the students we work with.

First of all Superintendents proposals are self-propagating, they are looking for any means possible to reduce their budgets and cover management failures to remove poor teachers that even we know should have been removed. Public School Administration has been and remains a good old boys club. They hide their failures by blaming teachers and union contracts for not effecting change. When in fact it is their incompetence that is to blame for that. They bloat budgets and introduce new programs with minimal or no teacher input and expect these curriculums to work. Have building level administrators with little to no knowledge of the curriculum the teacher they are evaluating is about. How effective is that?

Secondly the Governor on the other hand is taking the same tact he did when he was the Mayor of Stamford, Touting himself as the "Education Mayor", when all he did was try to cut and slash the budget of the Stamford Public Schools. Stating less is more! Now his tact is to dismantle requirements to become a professional educator. Some of the sections of his proposal tell me and many other teachers around Connecticut that their advanced degrees don't mean anything. All of the classes and workshops for CEU's are worthless. I think if you and the committee really look at his proposals you will find that all his proposals meet are the requirements to apply for Race To The Top monies. I believe that the Senate is smart enough to realize he is interested in only filling in a state budget gap, not improving education for children in Connecticut.

Teacher tenure is being made the big issue. Does the Senate Committee realize that tenure is **only** used for the purpose of reduction in force, when due to budget constraints for teacher lay off. So the only purpose it would serve to remove, would be to give Superintendents the means to reduce their payroll budgets. This would not impact the removal of ineffective teachers, only a good method of evaluation of teacher performance would do that. Maybe a look at what the Davidson Group out of Princeton University has offered in this area might be appropriate.

In conclusion I believe that the Senate should table Senate Bill #24 or reject it outright till it is presented with a more reasonable approach to reform of the Connecticut Public Schools. Great Ideas from Dr. Linda Darling Hammond of Stanford University, Linda Ratvich of Columbia University have offered more reasonable approaches.

The Governor is trying to sell a Champagne Education on a Beer Budget. It is time to look at all sides before the state enters into a full-blown disaster. With these proposals I would not advise any student thinking of becoming a teacher in Connecticut to do it. I would tell them to look into an alternative career.