

**Remarks of Anne T. Rizza
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**Before the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24 – AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

February 21, 2012

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

My name is Anne T. Rizza, and I am an English teacher in the Trumbull School District. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24.

Masters are experts in their field of study. There are Master Carpenters, Master Artists, and Master Electricians who require years of training and schooling to earn their titles. Master Teachers are required to earn master's degrees and attend yearly mentor training. If legislators pass Governor Malloy's plan, finding a teacher with a master's degree or even a Master teacher will be a difficult task.

Connecticut's students will not learn from Master Teachers under Malloy's plan. Instead their teachers will enter and potentially exit the profession with the minimum Bachelors degree. However, by the year 2018 our own students will need master's degrees to compete for 10 percent of the job market (The Georgetown University Center on Education 2010 Study). For more than 12 years teachers will tell their students that they must work toward master's degrees while the teachers themselves hold lower degrees with no incentive to further their own education.

Governor Malloy wants our students to be "life-long learners," but not their teachers. Supporters of Malloy's plan indicate that districts offer professional development to further teacher education. Professional development is not sequential and cannot compete with a concentrated masters program. Master teachers have content and discipline knowledge that will help them to better educate their students and new teachers. Collegiate models support the need for a faculty of educators who hold advanced degrees in concentrated areas. We send students to college to learn from Masters. Why would we expect less of the 12 years of education that leads them to college?

We must provide a more sophisticated education for our students to better prepare them for college and a more competitive job market, one that requires advanced degrees. By 2018 the occupation demand for a master's degree in business will be 22%, not far behind education's 25% (The Georgetown University Center on Education 2010 Study). Education and degree advancement is the future for our students and it is a requirement for those educating our students. I have heard many educators say, "We are in the business of educating students." However, marginalizing education into a faulty business model is bad education and certainly bad business.