

*Remarks of Tanya Platt
Third Grade Teacher
Danbury*

**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 Tanya Platt, and I'm a third grade teacher in Danbury, CT. I am here today to comment on Senate Bill 24, Section 28.

I have been teaching in Connecticut for the past six years. I am a dedicated professional who takes a great deal of pride in teaching in a state that has upheld such high standards for its teaching staff. Although completing the certification process in Connecticut was not easy, it was worthwhile. I completed the Praxis exam, my coursework, the BEST portfolio and then my masters degree. Each step in this process made me a stronger, more effective teacher, better prepared to meet the needs of my students. I work with other professionals who have put the same time and energy into their education and training to help maximize the benefit they can bring to their students in the classroom. I am also a mentor for beginning teachers in the TEAM program, and these beginning teachers are working hard to refine their teaching craft and plan to go on to pursue an advanced degree to support that learning. My point here is that the certification process we have in place works, and works well. We have top notch teachers in this state and the fact that they care about their students and their students' learning is evidenced by how hard teachers work already to become certified and uphold that certification. I fear that the proposed changes would weaken the quality of teachers that are attracted to our schools and would place an unfair level of power on the decisions made by one supervisor. Teachers maintain their certifications currently by following a fair and proven system that continues to push them to build on their craft throughout their years of service. I would like to urge the committee to be very careful of changing this certification system as I fear the eventual impact of such changes would be to lower the quality of education that our children receive. Thank you for your time.