

*Remarks of William During  
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**For the Education Committee  
On Senate Bill 24  
Teacher Certification, Tenure and Evaluation**

**February 21, 2012**

Governor Malloy's plan to change teacher certification, tenure, and the evaluation process is so far fetched that he has alienated the entire core of 53,400 teachers in the State of Connecticut. Not only is it unreasonable to waive the current certification, now in place, by eliminating the provisional, and the temporary credential; it is also unconscionable to allow teachers from other states, who have not acquired the Connecticut certificate through rigorous testing, to obtain a certificate here. In addition, according to CALI, there exists "Network, and Focus" schools to bolster underachieving districts who are "at risk". All Connecticut schools are in need of state aid, not just the schools that are struggling in the urban areas. Governor Malloy's whole notion of undermining the current tenure system is non-functional because Connecticut teachers are among the best trained educators in the entire nation! If a teacher who has been working for thirty five years or more is out performing a new teacher, then there should not be a subjective measure in place to evaluate the teacher out. Governor Malloy's new plan is to have the administrator evaluate the teachers, and based upon a single person's opinion, determine whether the teacher stays on step, or is lowered to a lower step on the salary schedule. Simply by writing the terms, "developing", "proficient", or "exemplary", a teacher is classified as effective, or ineffective. The ironic part of this is that with the new law proposed by SB 24, an administrator can make these determinations without being properly certified him/herself. The new law would even allow superintendents themselves to be employed without having the rigorous credentials now in place. In conclusion, how can teachers be expected to support SB 24? Despite the fact that supposedly, 31 states have changed the tenure system, and evaluation process, how can we be expected to do the same? After all, cost cutting, and comparing education to the private sector should not even be included in the same sentence. If Connecticut has disparities between high achieving, and low achieving districts, is that not the result of demographics, rather than the effectiveness of teachers? Governor Malloy should stick to that which he does best, politics, and middle level management.