

**Connecticut General Assembly**  
**Education Committee**  
**March 4, 2013**  
**TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**  
**House Bill 6502**

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Ranking Members, and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Janette Smith. I am a paraprofessional in the Mansfield School District, a member of CSEA/SEIU, Local 2001, and a resident of Coventry. I submit the following testimony on House Bill 6502: An Act Concerning the Membership of the Paraprofessional Advisory Council.

It is important that the number of paraprofessionals serving on the Advisory Council is a majority of members of the Council. The proposed establishment of one representative from each bargaining unit within our state that represents school paraprofessionals is a positive step toward the collaboration and discussion of issues confronting paraprofessionals. Those issues are best brought forward by those who work within the profession. Of the 18 member Advisory Council, only three of those members are paraprofessionals. While HB 6502 is a positive step, the language in HB 6183 better addresses the need for paraprofessionals to compose a majority of the Paraprofessional Advisory Council.

As a 22 year paraprofessional in the district of Mansfield, I feel that the Advisory Council for Paraprofessionals plays an important role in striving to raise standards and bring awareness of the impact that paraprofessionals play in the success of students in our various educational settings throughout the state.

The goals and objectives of this Council will certainly benefit from the contributions of additional paraprofessionals.

Respectfully,  
Janette Smith  
Paraprofessional, Mansfield School District