

SB 1000 Testimony

March 3, 2013

Dear Education Committee Co-Chairs and Members:

Please support this bill—SB 1000—to help academically gifted students who are capable of graduating early and who we could keep in Connecticut if we assist them. I have experience with these issues as a former member of the Marlborough Connecticut board of education and chair of the same while remaining active on educational issues.

We do not as a country or a state devote attention to supporting the movement of these students through our rigorous, often rigid, stepwise system of advancement, but this could move us in that direction. As these students become teenagers and their abilities are more apparent, we should offer a means for them to prove they can graduate while giving them an incentive to stay in CT colleges and universities.

This is an important first step of strengthening our star academics to make their contribution to our lives and our economy in Connecticut fruitful. Too often these students are so frustrated by the inflexibility of our system they want to get away from here, and/or never have a chance to make our world a better place.

Thank you.

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