

Rebecca A. Hamman, Ed.D.
29 Lindsey Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905
203.961.8329 • bbhamman@optonline.net

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Members of the Committee of Education for the CT General Assembly:

I am Becky Hamman, Ed.D., a resident of Stamford, CT, a Connecticut high school administrator for the last nine years as well as a gifted education/enrichment teacher. As a board member for Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Raised Bill 1000: ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMICALLY GIFTED ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.***

As an administrator, I believe highly capable students should not be held back especially if they are ready for deeper learning at the university level. These students are smart, motivated and will succeed—they've proven this by already completing 4 years of high school credits in 3 years.

Many of our most capable students have little or no contact with working adults or much awareness of the range of career opportunities in their field of interest. Going beyond high school at an earlier time in their learning career would give them this opportunity (hopefully, with more TLC).

By twelfth grade, highly capable students are much more independent than their peers. They are savvy at advocating for themselves as well as able to handle the academic demands and the impersonal nature of college. I believe the culture shock of the first year of college would be minimal.

It's time to radically overhaul the typical high school—the lock-step requirements or the one-size-fits-all diploma may need to look different for highly capable students. We need to make education modern...forward looking, client-centered, and flexible; adapted to an era where the students' personalized needs determines the curriculum and the high school graduation time frame.

I strongly support Raised Bill 1000.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Hamman, Ed.D.
bbhamman@optonline.net