

Dear Chairmen, Ranking Members, and Members of the Education Committee,

I write to you in favor of H.B. 5331, which would "uncouple" standardized test scores from a teacher's evaluation for the coming school year.

I support, and urge your support of, an alternative model that redirects evaluation to become more student based. Dr. Daniel Long and Rebecca Coven from Wesleyan University recently presented new research advocating for this model. There are many ways to show what students know and can do; students should not be pigeon-holed into one assessment, nor should a teacher's effectiveness be based on a single test score either. Creating a teacher evaluation plan based on student portfolios/projects/other types of assessments follows differentiation as a best-practice, and also supports the rigor of the Next Generation Science Standards, which many states, including Connecticut, are considering to adopt.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Edward Sarisley III