



March 11, 2014

To: Education Committee

Subject: Testimony - Re: H.B. No 5078 – An Act Imposing A Moratorium On The Implementation Of The Common Core State Standards

My name is Milly Arciniegas, and I am a resident of Hartford, a parent of a child in the Hartford Public School system and also the Hartford Parent University Executive Director.

I am here today to share with all of you about all of the time and effort Hartford Parent University has spent on preparing and educating hundreds of parents on the importance of the Common Core Standards over the last year and just recently during our learning session held with Hartford Public Schools on March 1, 2014.

The Common Core Standards are focused, coherent, and clear. They will truly help children, parents and teachers understand what is expected of them. The standards will also ensure our children will have what they need upon graduation for them to be better prepared for college or a career. Our children will be able to compete globally and the expectations will finally be consistent for all – and not dependent on a child's zip code.

The other major benefit would be moving away from literature-focused standards to a balance of literature and informational text. This would really help our children not only read books, but also contracts, policies and other important reading material upon graduating from high school.

We need critical thinking and rigor to come back into the classrooms and we believe the Common Core Standards is a step in the right direction and should not be delayed. To be able to hear parents have conversations with each other and teachers about the benefits of Common Core Standards and SBAC testing and how they can be a part of it to see their children reach their full potential and their goals in school and in life is a beautiful thing.

It is a new day in Hartford and parents are taking the lead and are wanting to learn more and do more to ensure their children receive the best quality education. We all must come together for the sake of the children – we cannot afford to wait around -- we must push ourselves to reach higher expectations to terminate the achievement gap once and for all.

We can do this! Holding back now is not the answer.

We are not in favor of H.B. No. 5078 and we thank you for your time.