

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TREFRY IN OPPOSITION TO BILL NO. 5078**

Thank you Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Committee. I am Robert Trefry, Chair of the Connecticut Technical High System Board and an Ex-Officio member of the State Board of Education. I was not able to stay at the hearing long enough to deliver an oral presentation and appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit this written testimony.

The Board of the Connecticut Technical High School System has been committed to the implementation of the Common Core. At our last Board meeting, the Board reaffirmed that commitment. Raising the bar of the standards is essential, to ensure that our students receive the education necessary so they can contribute to society and compete in the global economy. We must move forward, not backwards in terms of the educational standards we set for our schools. The depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills required by the Common Core are the cornerstone of that readiness.

We appreciate the Governor's executive order creating a common core implementation advisory group. The work of the advisory group will be very valuable as implementation moves forward.

Many of our State's high school students graduate lacking the academic skills necessary to begin post-secondary education without remediation. Each year over 38,000 students graduate from high in our State. They are counting on us to provide them with the foundation for a successful life. Let us move with urgency to give them the best chance to succeed.

Thank you for consideration.