

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Education Committee's Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. I am writing my testimony specifically about House Bill 5078.

I want to say I am not opposed to standards. In fact I think standards are a necessary way to ensure people are attempting to reach the same common goal. I am opposed to rushing to implement curriculum and using a test that seems underdeveloped and being quickly created and implemented in order to reach an agreement made when the waiver was approved for No Child Left Behind. This is not best for children or those serving in our education community.

I am asking that a delay be supported in implementing SBAC testing in order to provide districts the opportunity to completely implement the Common Core standards as well as create curriculum to be in place to support these new standard. Furthermore, I am asking that the state consider implementing state curriculum instead of utilizing the 169 towns in Connecticut to have their districts create varying curriculum to meet the new standards. Having national standards is great in theory, but having every school district across this country create curriculum to meet those standards defeats the purpose.

Young children should not be subjected to the amount of testing our state does in order to analyze where students are at and when. You are asking educators to shift in their way of thinking and teaching K-12 all at one time. Why was this new educational reform not phased in? Are we really looking for success?

So as a constituent, I am asking that Connecticut slow down, take a breath and really put a timeline together that makes sense and that is doable so that we can be a success story. But more importantly so our children can be successful as knowledge seekers who will later shape our world.

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