

Pastor Brigitte P. Brown, MSW
214 Hart Street
New Britain, CT 06052

March 15, 2014

The Education Committee
Legislative Office Building room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Education Committee,

My name is Pastor Brigitte Brown, and I reside at 214 Hart Street New Britain, CT 06052. I am a mother of 5 children and a wife, Pastor; Social Worker; Police Commissioner; Community Organizer; member of the Student Governance Council of Smalley Academy and the chairperson of the North-Oak Neighborhood Revitalization Zone. As you can see, I am very involved in my community and the surrounding cities. Above all these different roles, I am proud to be a Latina. I had to work very hard to be who I am today.

The purpose of this letter is to ask if you can help with my efforts in supporting the Raised SB 476 An Act Concerning the Academic Achievement Gap which includes language that would provide full day kindergarten and most importantly it will increase the amount of time a student may spend in bilingual education from thirty months to sixty months. This bill is a step in the right direction, and will help to continue supporting our English Language Learners. I am a 1st generation born in the US, and my parents migrated from the Dominican Republic not knowing the language. I have been privileged to have learned the English language and learning was easier for me than that of an English Language Learner. There is a wide achievement gap that affects our English Language learners. This bill will help support the younger children who may not have been exposed to the English language until they get into public schools. This bill may not close the gap, but it will help to begin the process of accelerating our English Language Learners, so that they can begin to understand and retain the schoolwork.

I appreciate all your help, and I hope that you can assist me in helping to pass the bill, which will allow this population of individuals an opportunity to be successful too. Thank you for your time and considering my request. I can be directly reached at 860-770-2495 or rhabri@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Pastor Brigitte P. Brown, MSW