

Good morning Senators, Representatives, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Jill McLaughlin and I am a resident and voter in Sterling, Connecticut.

I support the contextualized learning bill (House bill 5493) because people like myself who have vocational certificates but do not have their high school credentials want to better themselves as people, employees, parents, and role models.

Programs with contextualized learning don't just address basic skills, they also address life skills. The college-level certifications help adults who are on assistance transition to gainful employment.

My economic situation is not permanent, and neither are those of my peers. We believe that, with these programs, adults like me will better themselves and society and accomplish the goals and dreams never thought possible.

The drive and motivation we get from our teachers and the curriculum have helped us become successful assets to our state.

In closing, I promise you that passing this bill will benefit our communities. It may even prompt other states to follow in our footsteps.

Thank you for your time.

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