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Written Testimony in Support of S.B. No 1055 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED
AND TALENTED STUDENTS

I am writing this letter in support of S.B. No 1055 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS. As a researcher who has conducted research in the area of gifted and talented education, I can tell you with certainty that Connecticut is one of the worst states in the nation in terms of its commitment to gifted education and gifted students, a fact that is quite ironic, given that the National Center for Research on Gifted Education is housed at the University of Connecticut. Connecticut is one of just five states with no one in state government assigned to the coordination of gifted and talented identification and services in public schools. The others are Michigan, Idaho, Rhode Island and Vermont. The fact that CT state law requires districts are required to identify but not serve gifted students has always seemed nonsensical to me. Worse yet, 34% of Connecticut's school districts do not report identifying any gifted and talented students, in violation of CGA statutes Section 10-76d. The passage of S.B. No. 1055 makes someone in the Department of Education responsible for the identification and coordination of g/t services in every district. Without such a person at the state level, gifted education within the state of Connecticut will continue to languish. With a shifting of current resources, this bill places no additional cost burden on the state budget.

Every child in Connecticut deserves to learn something new in school each day. Unfortunately, for many of the brightest children in Connecticut, this seemingly simple request goes unheeded.

Sincerely,



D. Betsy McCoach