

**Bill: Raised S.B. 1055**

**Dr. Nancy Eastlake, Gifted Education Program Coordinator, West Hartford and Manchester, CT. Board member, CT Association for the Gifted (CAG)**

**Hearing date: March 11, 2015**

I want to begin by thanking the Education Committee for bringing forward Raised S.B.1055. Essential to growing and successful implementation of gifted education programs in the State of Connecticut will be the designation of an individual at the State Department of Education, one who has expertise and experience in gifted and talented education, to be the leader, the point person for parents and educators alike throughout Connecticut.

As an educator I have worked with gifted students, their families, classroom teachers, G/T teachers, and school administrators for 32 years. I am a parent of three daughters, all very talented, high achieving students who are now adults. I am a grandparent of a twice exceptional ( LD/Gifted) child. It is with each step every day that I understand and practice the thinking and methodologies of Gifted Education.

Over and over again, students who participate in gifted programming talk about how they feel being given choices in their learning, being able to stretch their minds, having their interests supported, being able to dialogue with like-minded peers, about having a teacher-guide-mentor who carries deeply about their growth, academically, socially and emotionally over time.

Gifted education programs and opportunities are needed in every town, for all populations of students, beginning in kindergarten and extending through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The State of Connecticut holds boundless potential, let's support and nurture its growth and development.