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**Public Hearing on Raised S.B. 1055, Session 2015, Introduced by the Education Committee
AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
Testimony for March 11, 2015**

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Education Committee, on behalf of all Connecticut students, educators and communities, I would like to comment on Raised Senate Bill 1055:

Section 1 asks the Commissioner to designate an employee of the Department of Education to oversee and ensure the proper identification of students and coordination of services for gifted and talented children.

In order to represent gifted education, a representative at the CTSDE is needed to educate the policy makers, community leaders, parents, educational leaders, teachers, students and media on a consistent basis about gifted education as well support educators and develop specific, clear goals. This special student population hasn't had any voice since 2009 at the CTSDE.

Section 2 of the bill would require the CTSDE Department to study the extent of services provided to gifted and talented students in our state schools, and examine best practices on addressing the intellectual, social and emotional needs of these students.

In order to examine best practices and promote the 'cradle to career' approach within Connecticut, it is vital that we systemically evaluate gifted programming throughout the state. We need to collect multiple sources (formative and summative) to help decision makers at all levels make informed judgments about the effectiveness of the various components of services offered to our gifted students.

In conclusion, I fully support these recommendations. I believe that if passed, Raised S.B. 1055 will ensure a more effective and meaningful implementation of the 2013 Education Reform Law and will significantly enhance the academic progress of ALL high-ability, high achieving students in our state.

Thank you,
Dr. Rebecca Hamman
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College Career Pathways (CCP) Coordinator