

**Testimony
of
Megan Foell**

Nominee for Student Member, State Board of Educaiton

January 22, 2015

Good morning, Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Megan Foell, and it is an honor and privilege to appear before you today as Governor Dannel P. Malloy's nominee as student member of the Connecticut State Board of Education.

I have been a lifelong resident of Thomaston, Connecticut, and reside with my father, a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and U.S Army veteran, my mother, who has been disabled by Multiple Sclerosis for 21 years, and is our Homemaker, and my younger sisters Rachel and Kristen Foell. I have attended Thomaston Public Schools for the entirety of my educational career; and have been offered admission to Fordham University, Pennsylvania State University, Quinnipiac University, and Rutgers University to pursue my postsecondary education.

Currently, I serve as Treasurer of the Class of 2015, and as Reporter of Thomaston's National Honor Society chapter. I am also an active member of the Thomaston Board of Education, as well as my school's Interact chapter, Drama Club, and Moot Court. I donate much of my time to St. Peter's Trinity Church, and Landmark Community Theatre, both located in my hometown.

I have taken full advantage of the opportunities I have been given, and am grateful that I have been given the chance to do so. I attribute much of my success to the Equal Opportunity efforts that the State Board of Education emphasizes in its work. I would not be here before you today if I had not had the experiences afforded to me by my school district. I believe each student in every corner of our great state has the right to be empowered and to have the resources to try anything they desire.

Being just 17, it has been an honor to work among such esteemed professionals on the State Board of Education, and I look forward to fulfilling my term. I trust that this worthwhile experience will undoubtedly serve me well in my future career in law and politics. I assure you that I will enthusiastically continue to lend my thoughts and ideas to the board, and represent the students' viewpoint in order to ensure that the most beneficial solution to all matters before the Board will be reached.

Thank you all for your time, and enjoy the rest of the day.