

**TESTIMONY OF JESSALENE C. EPPS
IN SUPPORT OF SB 842, AN ACT CONCERNING FOSTER CHILDREN AND THE
DESIGNATION OF SURROGATE PARENTS AND HB 5658, AN ACT
CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL SURROGATES, THE JUVENILE JUSTICE
SYSTEM AND CHILDREN REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Committee on Children
February 17, 2015

Submitted by Jessalene Epps

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Distinguished Members of the Committee on Children:

I submit this testimony **in support of SB 842 and HB 5658.**

I am Jessalene Epps, age 18. I attend Crec Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts.

I have been involved in foster care for 8 years and on going. I have never been a part of the juvenile justice system, and I do not receive special education services, and I have never had an educational surrogate.

I have a great big struggle in the math area due to moving around and missing school days. I have failed math classes due to no help from home and D.C.F. . Being involved in D.C.F and /or the Juvenile Justice system can and will put barriers in your education for multiple reasons . I believe an Educational Surrogate can make a big difference in child's life by helping them fill great masses of educational voids that they have obtained of the years of being involved with D.C.F / Juvenile Justice system.

Jessalene C, Epps, 2/13/15