

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Bruce E. Douglas, Ph.D.

Submitted to the Education Committee  
March 3, 2015

Regarding Senate Bill 943: An Act Concerning Charter School Modernization and Reform

Dear Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Bruce Douglas, and I serve as Executive Director of the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC). CREC provides extensive educational support services throughout the state of Connecticut and operates 19 high-performing interdistrict magnet schools in the greater Hartford area. I am testifying today regarding Senate Bill 943, An Act Concerning Charter School Modernization and Reform.

CREC supports high-quality public schools for all children, including neighborhood schools, charter schools, and magnet schools. Every child deserves an outstanding education, no matter what school they attend and no matter in which town they live. Schools must adhere to the highest standards of excellence and accountability to the public in order to be high-quality schools.

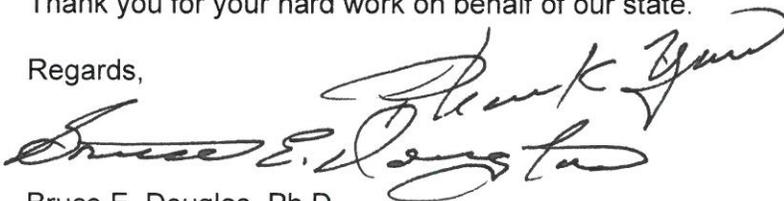
While it increases oversight and transparency in Connecticut's charter schools, Senate Bill 943 could be enhanced. CREC supports the American Federation of Teachers' efforts to improve the bill, by introducing language that strengthens academic accountability, financial oversight, and transparency in operations in charter schools.

In strengthening Senate Bill 943, Connecticut's charter schools will also be fortified. Through increased transparency and accountability, schools can improve the quality of their educational services, while at the same time bolstering their relationships with the communities in which they are located.

CREC's magnet schools withstand a high level of scrutiny and accountability and must maintain high standards of integration and achievement. We have found that this examination of our methods and outcomes has resulted in more dedicated teachers and administrators, healthier communities, and greater academic success among students. CREC welcomes the opportunity to share the lessons we have learned about professional practice, transparency, and fiscal responsibility in support of all schools of choice.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our state.

Regards,



Bruce E. Douglas, Ph.D.