

March 13, 2015

Etienne Marofsky
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RE: Written testimony in Support of S.B. No 1055, AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS For Joint Committee on Education Public Hearing, March 11, 2015

Dear Education Committee,

I support S.B. No 1055 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED for the following reasons:

- 34% of Connecticut's school districts do not report identifying any gifted and talented students, in violation of CGA statutes Section 10-76d.
- Connecticut is one of just five states with no one in state government assigned to the coordination of gifted and talented identification and services in public schools. The others are Michigan, Idaho, Rhode Island and Vermont.
- These children and more will continue to be overlooked unless S.B. No. 1055 is passed, which makes someone in the Department of Education responsible for the identification and coordination of g/t services in every district.
- Because we are asking for a shifting of current resources, this bill places no additional cost burden on the state budget.
- Every child in Connecticut deserves an education that is suitable to his or her needs.
- Best practices in gifted education include instructional strategies that have been proven to raise the achievement of ALL students.
- Providing for the needs of gifted and talented students is an investment we cannot afford NOT to make.

Our 9th grade son has been labeled as "profoundly gifted" now for several years. Every year we hear the same thing from the public school, "we don't need to customize his curriculum because we are not required to do so...." What a travesty it is for our educators to take that firm stance of actively choosing not to provide our child with an appropriate education. What happened to his rights? Most of what my child has learned has been through books that he has read on his own. Our son is not receiving an "appropriate education" in the school system. He is frustrated and feels devalued. These gifts/talents should be cultivated and cherished. Just imagine where the World would be if we allowed that to happen. Imagine that for one moment and you will do the right thing.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Etienne Marofsky