

Huihui Yu, Storrs
March 13, 2015
Written Testimony in Support of S. B. No 1055 (Raised)

Dear the Education Committee:

I am a mother of two Connecticut kids, a doctoral student of educational statistics, and an engaged researcher in human intelligence and gifted identification. I am writing to support the S. B. No 1055 (Raised), which, I believe, is a future-oriented revolutionary act for the perspective fairness and success of education in Connecticut.

Before entering the field of education, I have been in the field of electrical engineering for almost fifteen years. After I became a mother, I particularly appreciate the importance of education for everyone and soon gained my passion in education. My interests in gifted education were originally from the stories of several super smart kids who did not perform very well academically and had all kinds of behavior problems at school. I did not understand why they could not do well at school when they were absolutely able. As I learn more and more about gifted education, I know what has prevented those kids to succeed at school and I am very sad for them as I recognize the fact of gifted education in Connecticut. Gifted education is not mandatory in Connecticut, there is no funding from the state government to support gifted education, and there is nobody in the government who is responsible for the coordination of gifted and talented identification and services in public schools.

I do not understand why the policy of gifted education in Connecticut is so disappointing, though I know two typical misunderstandings about gifted students and gifted education among people. First, gifted students need not any support to succeed at school, and their giftedness will thrive by itself. As seeds need adequate water and sunshine to grow, gifted students need sufficient resources and assistance to succeed at school as well. If the well-known slogan, "No-Child-Left-Behind", is about the fairness in education, then I would say Dr. Renzulli's "No-Child-Left-Bored" is about the success in education. Please fill up gifted students' daydreams in the regular classrooms, the dreams will come true and reward the whole society in the future. Second, God has given more blessings to those talented people than the others, and therefore they should not receive more from this world. Despite the nonsensical logic in this statement, God's fairness should not be judged or adjusted by human beings.

The gifted students in Connecticut and their families have been waiting for a very long time. Please make some difference for them and make Connecticut a better place for every child, including gifted children!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Huihui Yu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Huihui Yu