

March 13, 2015

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Subject: Written Testimony in Support of S.B. No 1055 (Raised) AN ACT  
CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS for  
Joint Committee on Education Public Hearing, March 11, 2015

Dear Education Committee:

I am writing to you in support of S.B. No 1055 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED. Every child in Connecticut deserves an education that is suitable to his or her needs. The needs of a child who is advanced compared to his age peers are just as important as the needs of those children that are behind. Surprisingly and sadly, many people do not get this point. I have spent the last 5 years trying to explain why the academically advanced child needs to be challenged beyond the expectations of his grade. The motivation for my quest to improve the education of gifted children started when my daughter entered kindergarten. My daughter learned to read on her own at the age of 3 and started kindergarten at 4. School has been and continues to be easy for her. Unfortunately, the lack of stimulation at school has led to many undesirable effects that my daughter is currently experiencing, including the fear of failing.

In school, as in life, everyone must fail in order to actually learn something. Children that are not challenged and therefore, never fail, are already set up to fail in handling the hardships of life. Providing for the needs of gifted and talented students is an investment we cannot afford NOT to make. Connecticut is one of just five states with no one in the state government assigned to the coordination of gifted and talented identification and services in public schools. Gifted children will continue to be overlooked unless S.B. No. 1055, which makes someone in the Department of Education responsible for the identification and coordination of g/t services in every district, is passed. Because we are asking for a shifting of current resources, this bill places no additional cost burden on the state budget. Please lend your support to S.B. No 1055 and give an overlooked group of children a chance to succeed in life.

Sincerely,

Patricia Noe