

March 13,2015

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RE: Testimony in Support of SB No. 1055 (an Act Concerning the Gifted and Talented Students

Attention: Education Committee

I highly support SB No. 1055 An Act Concerning the Gifted and Talented Students for the following reasons:

- 1) So that there will be a unified and organized process and effort in identifying students who have extra abilities in our state.
- 2) So that more significance will be placed in providing extra enrichment activities namely in Math and Science. Currently, with my experience, my daughter's "Math Club" teacher is usually pulled out to do other things that they usually do not have the supposed "Math Club enrichment".
- 3) The so called "enrichment for the TAG students should be built- in the school hours and not during lunch, recess nor after school hours.
- 4) So that there will be a process of evaluation on how these TAG students are growing and improving. Consequently, areas of improvement can better be identified.

To achieve a better and sustained identification of these TAG students, I think it is time that they be represented formally in the Department of Education by having someone who can truly be dedicated and responsible in administering the whole TAG program in the state. Most of the TAG kids I have encountered are truly capable especially in STEM. I am confident that they can soar higher when policies and programs for the TAG will be more substantially developed and prioritized.

Thank you.