

My name is Dawn McNary. I am a parent and I live in East Haddam, CT. I am providing testimony concerning House Bill No. 5555, An Act Concerning the minimum budget requirements and prohibiting the inclusion of participation rates for the state-wide mastery examination in the calculation of a school district's accountability index score. I respectfully request you to approve this bill to ensure that the parental right to make informed educational decisions is not in direct conflict with the 'punishments' or 'financial penalties' imposed upon districts for testing participation and/or success.

Parental right to make informed educational decisions for children is part of the school/parent teamwork that should not be breached, in the quest to bring accountability into classrooms and into districts. Such an example, but certainly not the only example, is the Parental Right to make the informed decision to not participate in the current testing model known widely as SBAC, or the 'NEW SAT'. As you are aware by now these testing models are not without controversy. There are arguments to support either side of the battle and while we are not here today to discuss the failings or perceived merits of the SBAC/New SAT testing system we are here to discuss failing schools, accountability and the rights of parents to make informed decisions.

Thank you for listening to the testimony with regards to HB5555 and we do hope you will always protect the rights of parents and students in the state of Connecticut to make informed decisions without facing veiled threats, intimidation or having to argue the decision repeatedly in order to have it be granted, all because the parental decision is tied to an Accountability ranking which inevitably is tied to money.

Please amend HB5555 as suggested and NOT include participation rates for the mastery examinations as part of the "Accountability Index"

Dawn McNary
318 Tater Hill Rd
East Haddam CT 06371