



TESTIMONY OF THE
CONNECTICUT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

Good afternoon. My name is Kathleen Kennedy, President of the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (hereinafter "CT PTA"). I am here representing CT PTA and its over 40,000 members and to be stiff in support of the following bills:

HB 5307 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE UNREASONABLE DELAY OF ENROLLING A CHILD IN KINDERGARTEN

CT PTA recognizes the difficulties that can occur in the classroom with a wide range of ages, but we have always supported parent engagement in their child's education and this bill raises some serious questions, so we cannot support it at this time.

HB 5308 AN ACT CONCERNING A GENERAL EDUCATION MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORTS.

Effective family engagement is at the core of CT PTA's mission. We support the provision in this bill for creating a positive school culture by creating relationship-building strategies and and between students, faculty, families and the community, and research-based student, family and community governance structures that build positive school communities.

CT PTA supports educating our children in a positive environment with access to a well-rounded and rigorous curriculum and comprehensive supports that facilitate student learning and growth. We further support policies and programs that keep children in school and learning and a multi-tiered system of supports can help to insure that students do just that.

CT PTA supports replacing exclusionary discipline whenever possible with evidence-based, multi-tiered behavioral frameworks, such as positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) that improve school climate and safety.

Additionally, CT PTA believes that high-quality assessments provide valuable information to parents, teachers and school leaders about the growth and achievement of their students and that effective use of assessments to personalize and adjust student supports is an important element of student success.