

To Whom It May Concern;

I am sending in my testimony in support of Raised HB 5555 Session 2016. I believe that it is my right to parent my child (including but not limited to; educationally, spiritually, medically, and otherwise) without interference from the government unless neglect or abuse can be proven WITHOUT A DOUBT. That being said, I am strongly opposed to standardized testing that holds teachers, administrators and school districts accountable as well as testing that is connected to state/town funding. I strongly believe that there are far better ways to hold these entities accountable for their curriculum.

I feel that testing should only measure my child's immediate standing within her school (and only her school) during the school year the test is taken, the testing should be backed with parent/teacher conferences to determine if my child is on track for the present school year and if not, to create a plan to do so. I do not believe that my child's scores should be pitted against others whether in our school or others, whether in our state or others.

I certainly do not agree with the State of CT or the Commissioner of CT Department of Education should be allowed to "bully" parents by way of "bullying" school administrators into forcing kids to take the SBAC/SAT/ACT/Science SBAC for the sole purpose of state and local funding. Again, I state my right as a parent to oversee educational decisions for my child, therefore, I have the right to refuse standardized testing without fear of repercussion (legal or monetary for myself, my child or my school system).

I see this form of "bullying" as blackmail, therefore highly illegal and immoral.

Therefore, I do not agree with including the participation rate of CT state-wide mastery examinations into the calculation of any CT districts accountability index scores for the purpose of funding OR the purpose of denying funding to said districts. I support Raised House Bill 5555 for these reasons.

Sincerely,

Laurie Rogers, EXTREMELY CONCERNED PARENT.