

Dear Members Of The CT Education Committee,

As a public school teacher, parent, and former Board of Education member, I applaud both bills and implore the Education Committee to pass both HB 5555 and SB 380 for many reasons. Here are my top three:

- 1) The right of parents to make educational decisions for their children is democratically fundamental. They are products of their parents, not the State. "Opting out" is, and always has been, a parental right and the push against it finds its recent origins in the corporations who know their political dollars do not influence decisions made in the rooms of family households.
- 2) The secretive third party SBAC data mining of our children's personal information is dangerous and criminal.
- 3) The coupling of student SBAC results to teacher, and by extension, school and district evaluations undermines public education because it purposefully permits for-profit educational companies and quasi-public charter schools to take over public education in the name of "helping the students". Linking scores to salaries/job security results in the unfortunate focus on adults, not students. This trend is turning education into a punitive based culture of paranoia and superficiality whose focus is on a "high stakes" testing rather than a rewards-based culture where the focus is on student enrichment, curiosity, and enjoyment.

Thank you for your time and for supporting the way education should be in our State.

Scott A. Minnick

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