

I would like to voice my opposition to SB-175. I believe the bill should be struck and the Department of Education chastised for what can only be described here as both a power grab and thug tactics to prevent parents from exercising their inalienable rights to protect their children from what they determine to be harmful.

I believe wholeheartedly that the bill reflects an attempt to obtain statutory authority to make Public Education the vision of a few.

It is unacceptable to use threats of punishment to quell the growing discontent with corporate driven and centrally driven education reform that grades districts and evaluates teachers off the work of students on a test. It is unacceptable to give the DOE authority to assume more control over Boards of Education, more than they currently have, or to permit the DOE to prescribe a test that must be taken in order to graduate.

The true stakeholders of Public Education are the children and the tax-payers. Their agenda cannot be questioned and the purity of that agenda makes them ideal parties to educational policy.

Please, strike this bill and then start a committee to review the actions of the Department of Education. I believe you will notice a pattern of dismissal of ideas and information that would have prevented unnecessary expenditures. You may also identify a campaign of misinformation aimed at stifling any rising concerns from parents and tax-payers. The product of these actions have ultimately resulted in a bigger machine with more municipal expenditures but less core (not common core) educational product.

This Department of Education certainly does not need more power or the statutory ability to punish districts for having enlightened parents. However, I hope you will see the attitude towards the people of the State of Connecticut that this bill represents.

Respectfully,

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