

Dr. James Thompson, Bloomfield Public Schools
Testimony to the Joint Committee on Education Public Hearing

Senate Bill 379: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force.

Monday, March 7, 2016

Good Evening Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the State Education Committee.

My name is Dr. James Thompson, Jr. -- Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools.

I would like to offer brief testimony this evening on Senate Bill 379: ... **An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force.**

I support the intent of this bill. The establishment and continuation of the Task Force is critical to developing effective strategies to recruit and retain talented minority teachers in Connecticut.

For example, “full licensure reciprocity” would allow for more meaningful recruitment of out-of-state minority teachers and administrators.

Currently, students of color make up 41 percent of Connecticut’s public schools. But only 7 percent of Connecticut’s teachers are “of color” – and 13 percent of the administrators are “of color”.

I am pleased to share that teachers of color comprise more than 27% of Bloomfield’s teaching ranks.

In some quarters, Bloomfield's diversity numbers are considered "impressive." Candidly, we want to do better – and see the state to do better in creating more diversity among our teaching and administrative ranks.

Collectively, we all can be more intentional, resourceful and consistent in efforts to recruit and retain talented educators of color.

I ask you all to support Senate Bill 379. Thank you.