



March 7, 2016

Good morning Education Committee Members,

My name is Milly Arciniegas the Executive Director of the Hartford Parent University in Hartford, CT. The Hartford Parent University is a parent-led organization that engages, empowers, mobilizes and trains parents to advocate and support not only their child's learning but their own personal learning.

I am testifying today **not in support** of raised bill **380 – an act concerning the exclusion of student performance results on the mastery examination from teacher evaluations**. I work with many parents across the Hartford School district and know first-hand what it feels like for a parent when she/he is told her child is 1, 2 or even sometimes three years behind. Parents are completely devastated.

At the end of the day this is not about teachers or parents, this is about students (they have the greatest stake). We would hope that teachers could view the teacher's evaluation as a tool for them to continue to improve their craft, thus improving student performance results at the same time.

We cannot continue to do the same and expect different results. We need to aim high and not fear a test that would be helpful for teachers to become more effective and student's better performers. In today's world our children will have to face many other test down the road, such as SAT's, Graduate Record Examination, etc. And depending what profession he/she would like to pursue in life he/she is going to be faced with having to pass a particular test.

As parents we get one shot at this – and it could mean the difference between seeing our children live prosperous or struggling lives. And if we could use student performance results on the mastery examination as one of the measurements of performance on a teacher's evaluation – we should use it for the sake of the children.

Thank you for your time.
