



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Education Committee  
Public Testimony  
March 7, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 380  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE RESULTS ON THE  
MASTERY EXAMINATION FROM TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann; Vice Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Sanchez; Ranking Members Senator Boucher, Representative Lavielle; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Gayle Mulligan and I proudly represent the 55<sup>th</sup>, serving the wonderful towns of Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. I am writing today in support of SB 380.

As a mother of two, one of whom is still in high school, I can certainly understand the importance of teacher evaluations. All parents want their children to receive the best education possible and this obviously includes the teachers. And one of the ways we do this is through teacher evaluations. Unfortunately this is not as clear cut as it sounds.

Rather than evaluating a shop teacher on their performance in the classroom, seemingly irrelevant criteria are included in evaluations such as literacy. The end result is our teachers are being evaluated on conditions which have nothing to do with their area of expertise. We are now in a mindset where one approach fits all and nothing can be further from the truth. Instead we must be looking at what a teacher does in a classroom and limit this to what they are teaching. Variables must be limited in order to not invalidate how teachers are evaluated.

Thank you and I urge immediate passage of this bill in order to bring stability back to the classroom.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle Mulligan".

Gayle Mulligan  
State Representative, 55<sup>th</sup> District