



TESTIMONY OF  
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Education Committee Public Hearing  
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***SB 383 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM***

I have been a member of the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) for 38 years, first as a teacher, then a department head, an administrator, an interim special education consultant, and finally, at the end of my career, as the Vice President of the SVFT. Now that I am retired, I am serving a second 4-year term on the Connecticut Technical High School Governing Board. Governor Malloy appointed me to this board while I was serving on the State Board of Education. This long-term relationship has taught me many things and confirmed my belief that the CTHSS is indeed the best thing to educate Connecticut's youth and enriching its work force. For that reason, I am compelled to testify before you today in support of SB 383.

We all know that our first responsibility as teachers, administrators, central office staff or governing board members is the safety of the students in our schools. Secondly, we must provide them with the best academic and career/technical preparation possible. The passage of SB 383 will ensure that we are able to do that more effectively and efficiently by quickly filling vacancies and avoiding potentially dangerous situations where classes and shops are supervised by substitutes and no school nurse is available in the case of an emergency. Leaving some 75 positions vacant in the CTHSS since September of 2015 creates health and safety issues on all levels: administration, supervision, school maintenance, school nurse, classroom instruction, shop instruction, and shop safety, including OSHA irregularities.

It is worth emphasizing that in 2011 the task force formed by Governor Malloy undertook extensive study and work resulting in specific recommendations for the governance and future of the CTHSS. Those mandates formed the structure for the Strategic Action Plan 2014-2017 that our board has been using as the framework to guide the transformation of the system. One of the foundational imperatives of that framework states that:

*"The recruitment, retention and professional development of highly talented and skilled administrators, teachers, consultants and staff is the cornerstone of student success and the CTHSS being able to meet its goals..."*