

March 13, 2018

Re: Senate Bill (SB) 458 - "An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes

Dear Senators Boucher and Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and Members of the Education Committee:


Please accept this testimony as support of restoring district discretion in the background check processes for adult enrichment program instructors. I represent one of the largest enrichment programs in the State of Connecticut. These enrichment class offerings are instructed by non-certified teachers. These teachers are ones who have a hobby or talent to share with the community and promote life-long learning. Farmington Continuing Education offers over 700 enrichment classes, enrolls approximately 5,000 students and employs 185 instructors per year in our adult and youth enrichment programs. We are a self-supporting program and do not receive any tax payer dollars.

If the background check process is not restored to the discretion of the district, it will be detrimental to the future and existence of offering these programs. The instructors that are employed either offer the class for free or are paid \$30 for a one or more session class. The cost to each instructor to be fingerprinted would be more than they would be paid for the class they are instructing. In addition, many instructors teach in multiple districts that require that instructors to be fingerprinted in their own district and are not universal.

I encourage you to reconsider the restoration of the background check process to the district discretion so that programs can continue to offer to the community these informational, therapeutic and enriching opportunities to grow themselves personally and professionally.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lori Wyrebek  
Coordinator

