Testimony in opposition to HB 7150 and HB 7148 Section 1

Appropriations Committee Schedule Of State Agency Budget Presentation
And Public Hearing Wednesday, March 6, 2019

I am testifying **in opposition** to HB 7150 and HB 7148 Section 1 which terminates the state’s commitment to the nonpublic school nurse program.

I have been blessed in my educational journey to have attended public, Catholic and independent schools in Connecticut, so I have personally experienced great educational opportunities at each type of school here in our state and the benefits each type of school offers. The myriad of educational options available to families in Connecticut is one of the things that makes ours such a great state.

Highlighting my Catholic school journey specifically for the purpose of this testimony as it relates to nonpublic schools - academically, socially, athletically I thrived at St. Brigid’s elementary school, and earned a scholarship each year. At my 8th grade teacher Mary McKone’s suggestion, I applied and was accepted to boarding school and enjoyed yet another wonderful academic experience, followed by additional higher education opportunities— all within our great state of Connecticut.

Like me, my son has been blessed to attend various types of schools in Connecticut and garner unique experiences. Currently a student at Northwest Catholic High School, my 14-year-old son, a food allergic child, testified before the Education Committee on Friday in opposition to HB 7150 Section 1 regarding the removal of funding for school nurses. He testified from his firsthand perspective about the essential, non-negotiable role of school nurses in nonpublic schools – especially for food allergic children like him. As he so candidly, vulnerably and accurately stated: the presence of a school nurse can literally be the difference between life and death for a food allergic child in a nonpublic school. I have appended his testimony to mine so that you may read for yourselves his personal and passionate comments in opposition to HB 7150 Section 1.

Based on the preceding as well as my son’s attached testimony, I **oppose** HB 7150 and 7148 Section 1 and hope that the Governor and the Legislature decide to keep the school nurse program.

Thank you.

Lori Stewart, Legislative Liaison, Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference.