



**State of Connecticut**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**House Bill Number 7312**  
**Education Committee**  
**March 13, 2019**

Chairmen Sanchez and McCrory, Ranking Members McCarty and Berthel, and Members of the Education Committee, we would like to thank the Committee for hearing **House Bill Number 7312: An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Issues Relating to Parental Involvement with Students.**

This bill is an important House Republican proposal to allow for the creation of a task force to examine and review issues related to increasing parental involvement with students in schools across our state.

Each year, educators, students, parents, and educational leaders face a widening achievement gap within our schools. The legislature has taken steps to help address this issue, and House Bill 7312 is a new way to look at the achievement gap. While there are schools in Connecticut that are home to Parent Academies, not all schools utilize them, and they can play a very important role in helping engage parents and students with their present studies, as well as their future aspirations for college or the workforce. The task force to be established in this bill will look at ways to increase and improve parental involvement with their child's school, and ways to help improve overall communication and best practices to help close the achievement gap in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill, which will establish a task force to study issues related to improving parental involvement with students. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to help increase engagement between parents and students in our schools.