Amanda R. Whitman  
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March 6, 2019  

Education Committee  

Re:  HB7250  
Public Testimony  

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, and all of the esteemed members of the Education Committee,  

I am writing today in support of HB7250, AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY.  

I support the bill because our children need more opportunities for undirected play during the school day. It is critical to their overall development and well-being. I live in Norwalk, Connecticut, and I have three children ages 8, 7, and 4, who attend public school. I am aware how little time my elementary schoolers are given for undirected play at school. At their school, only twenty minutes per day is allotted for recess, per the current state minimum requirements. The school district and administrators look to the legislature to set the minimum requirements, and unless you act, things will not change. The length of the elementary school day in Norwalk is being increased by an additional thirty minutes next year, yet there are no plans to use any of this additional time for play, and members of the Norwalk Board of Education have expressed a desire to eventually increase the length of the school day by an hour. Even the teachers who do occasionally give their students additional play time feel that they are allowed to withhold any “extra” recess or play time from students for bad behavior, or only offer the extra play time as a “reward”. Our legislature needs to send a clear message that play is both a need and a right for our young students.  

Accordingly I urge you all to support this bill. Thank you for your time.  

Very truly yours,  

Amanda R. Whitman