

March 17, 2021

Dear Education Committee,

As an educational leader with over 21 years of experience as a teacher and administrator, and constituent in your district, I am writing to ask you **not** to support HB6620. This is a version of a bill being pushed in multiple states at the moment that would ensure all curriculum dollars are funneled into private companies and will leave local educators to blame when (not if) this silver bullet fails to produce universally positive results.

I would like to stress the following points:

- There is NO research base for requiring specific curricula and there are NO STUDIES of the impact of commercially available packages currently on the market
- It would limit districts to options like Amplify's CKLA which has a [track record of euro-centric content without representation of minorities](#).
- HB 6620 ignores the knowledge and professional judgment of teachers, school leaders and local school boards.
- This would require all districts allocate funds for new K-5 literacy curricula rather than on improving what they have, focusing on any other content, supporting any specific student groups, or developing the inclusive, antiracist pedagogies we desperately need
- HB 6620 refers back to old ideas about reading instruction from the early 2000s, like the NRP, without incorporating new research on reading or curriculum development.
- Educators in my district have invested time and money in collaboration, professional learning, data analysis, and looking at evidence of student growth, to build capacity for student-centered, culturally responsive approaches and we have results to prove it is working. We also have plans for continuous improvement, based on our unique cohort of students and data.
- There is a moral imperative to concentrate on culturally sustaining pedagogies focused on content that includes the identities and cultures of all of our learners. This requires local control to be responsive to local communities.

Please **do not vote for this HB6620**. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Julie Droller
Principal, Hindley Elementary School, Darien, CT