

Testimony of Maureen Durand
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HB 6620, An Act Concerning the Right to Read and Addressing the Opportunity Gaps and Equity in Public Schools

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My name is Maureen Durand and I am submitting this testimony in favor the HB6620. As a former elementary school teacher and current member of the Literacy How team, I have witnessed how necessary and impactful research and evidence-based instruction is. The data across the state of Connecticut proves that there are many children reading below their grade level.

After completing an undergraduate program in elementary education and working in a public school system for 5 years, I realized that I was not taught how to teach reading, and that the literacy curriculum provided to me by my school district, did not teach children how to read.

The HB 6620 will ensure that school districts develop reading curricula and implement assessment tools that have been researched and proven to be effective ways develop reading and writing.

It is crucial for our children to become confident/well-equipped readers as there is an overwhelming number of our youth, especially in Connecticut, that drop out of school and end up incarcerated due to a lack of quality education.

It is pertinent that we act now to save our youth.

Respectfully,

Maureen Durand
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