

Testimony in opposition to: Raised Bill No. 6620 –

An Act Concerning the Right to Read and Addressing Opportunity Gaps and Equity in Public Education
Submitted by Nicole Hendry, East Haddam, CT

Representative Sanchez, Senator McCrory, and Honorable Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about Raised Bill No. 6620 - An Act Concerning the Right to Read and Addressing Opportunity Gaps and Equity in Public Education.

I am submitting my testimony in opposition of bill 6620, specifically the parts referring to the reading program. As an educator, I feel this bill will severely limit the options for students who need reading instruction. While the science of reading has options that support students, making it the required only option is detrimental. This reading instruction may not work for every student and to determine that will be the model of the state of CT limits schools in meeting students' needs. There are many important components to reading and schools need to have options in supporting students. School districts should not have to apply for an exception to use other programs that support their students. Not everyone needs extensive instruction in phonemic awareness, some need instruction in comprehension, fluency and vocabulary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hendry