

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 17, 2021

SUPPORTING TESTIMONY from Monarae Chin, resident from Windsor, Ct for

SB 1034: An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Education Committee Co-Chairs, Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez and members of the Education Committee

My name is Monarae Chin, and I live in the town of Windsor, Connecticut. I am a Substitute Teacher, and I am testifying to ask for your support for Senate Bill #1034 – An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention.

I believe in the public-school System of America, my eleven (11) year old son is currently enrolled in one. I also believe the diverse student population of CREC Schools reflect one that deserves a match in a diverse teaching population.

There are many substitute teachers of color like myself who would love to be able to contribute to the classroom, but are unable to do so due to financial constraints and additional college costs. Not only is the Connecticut Teachers Residency Program aimed to eliminate college costs, but it is designed to attract teachers of color by offering compensation throughout the duration of the training process.

In addition, the mentorship component of the program is second to none and serves to stand out when compared to other alternate teacher training programs. It is believed that when the alternate route is chosen teachers are ill-prepared. However, to have mentors on board as in this case is a plus as it helps to boost self-confidence throughout the 18 months and in the first year of teaching.

According to Stanford Professor Emeritus, Linda Darling-Hammond, having an increase in diverse teacher population in the classroom is important, and is a strategy used for learning for students of color to close achievement gaps. She further stated that “while white students also benefit from learning from teachers of color, the impact is especially significant for students of color who are more likely to succeed as those teachers serve as a role model to support school and learning.”

For Connecticut Teachers Residency Program to have taken on this racially diverse approach can only help in making our children of color better adults for tomorrow. I believe to continue to have this program will aid in giving a boost to these children and their academic performance.

There is no doubt that the support teachers get from this program can only have a ripple effect on the learning process for all children.

With that said, I trust that you will support this program, and that the outcome from this hearing will be a favorable one in funding the program annually for \$4.5 million.

Thanks for listening, and thanks for your time.

Monarae Chin, Substitute Teacher