

Bill #SB 1034  
Linda Joseph

An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention  
Names of Co-Chairs: Senator McCorry & Representative Sanchez

My name is Linda Joseph and I live at 97 Berkeley Place, Bridgeport, CT 06610. I am supporting Bill SB 1034. Studies have shown that students learn more by teachers that look like them. The reason that I say this is because according to the K-12 Disparity Facts and Statistics it stated that college degrees are regarded as a primary vehicle for reducing poverty and closing the wealth gaps between people of color and whites. Yet, the disparities that exist are alarming.

Research has shown evidence of systematic bias in teacher expectations for African American students and non-black teachers were found to have lower expectations of black students than black teachers.

- Who Believes in Me? The Effect of Student-Teacher Demographic Match on Teacher Expectations
- The Nation's Report Card: 2015 NAEP Mathematics & Reading Assessments (title\_1\_4510)

I have the privilege of working as a substitute teacher for the past six years. During that time, every school district and classroom that I have taught in the students always ask me, why can't you be our teacher and my response has always been, "because unfortunately I am not certified." Through Bill like SB 1034 it will enable programs like this, more of an opportunity to realize our dream of becoming a certified teacher and our dream of having a role model.

I know for a fact that if we have programs like CT Teacher Residency Program it will help everyone to win, the students win and the staff will win.

So therefore, I am supporting for funding for the CT Teacher Residency Program because in my opinion there is a great need for more minority teachers.

Sincerely,

Linda Joseph