

February 9th, 2024

Senator Douglas McCrory, Chairman Representative Jeff Currey, Chairman Senator Eric Berthel, Ranking Member Representative Kathleen McCarty, Ranking Member **Education Committee** Room 3100 Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT

Dear Committee Leadership,

Because individual members may only propose bills of a financial nature this year, we would ask that the Education Committee raise a bill that would say that the Connecticut Department of Education must automatically approve Right to Read waiver applications for school districts with above average performance.

Public Act 23-167 required each district to implement a comprehensive reading curriculum model or program for grades K-3 of which there is unfortunately only a few options prescribed by the CSDE. Connecticut has a long history of not recommending, requiring, or mandating specific commercially available curriculum, text, or programs. Unfortunately, this reading statute and its implementation has changed this past practice to the detriment of towns across Connecticut both administratively and financially who have already proven that their model has produced exemplary results. School districts who can document that their performance is above average, and have applied for a waiver, should be given automatic approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

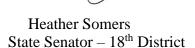
**Rob Sampson** State Senator – 16<sup>th</sup> District Gale Mastrofrancesco

**Tony Scott** State Representative – 80<sup>th</sup> District State Representative – 112<sup>th</sup> District

Pat Callahan State Representative – 108<sup>th</sup> District



Mark Anderson State Representative – 62<sup>nd</sup> District

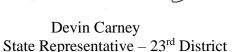


Dona M. Veach

Donna Veach State Representative – 30<sup>th</sup> District



Paul Cicarella State Senator – 34<sup>th</sup> District



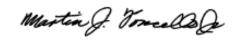
Steve Weir State Representative – 55<sup>th</sup> District



State Representative – 44<sup>th</sup> District



Tom O'Dea  $State\ Representative-125^{th}\ District$ 



Martin Foncello State Representative – 107<sup>th</sup> District State Representative – 34<sup>th</sup> District

Irene Haines

David Rutigliano State Representative – 123<sup>rd</sup> District



Christie Carpino State Representative – 32<sup>nd</sup> District

Tracy Marra State Representative – 141st District

Tim Ackert State Representative – 8<sup>th</sup> District

Lezlye Zupkus State Representative – 89<sup>th</sup> District

Henry Martin State Senator – 31<sup>st</sup> District