



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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,

Handwritten signature of Rob Sampson in blue ink.

Rob Sampson
State Senator – 16th District

Handwritten signature of Gale Mastrofrancesco in blue ink.

Gale Mastrofrancesco
State Representative – 80th District

Handwritten signature of Tony Scott in blue ink.

Tony Scott
State Representative – 112th District

Pat Callahan
State Representative – 108th District

Mark Anderson
State Representative – 62nd District

Heather Somers
State Senator – 18th District

Donna Veach
State Representative – 30th District

Paul Cicarella
State Senator – 34th District

Devin Carney
State Representative – 23rd District

Steve Weir
State Representative – 55th District

Anne Dauphinais
State Representative – 44th District

Doug Dubitsky
State Representative – 47th District

Tom O'Dea
State Representative – 125th District

Martin Foncello
State Representative – 107th District

Irene Haines
State Representative – 34th District

David Rutigliano
State Representative – 123rd District

Christie Carpino
State Representative – 32nd District

Tracy Marra
State Representative – 141st District

Tim Ackert
State Representative – 8th District

Lezlye Zupkus
State Representative – 89th District

Henry Martin
State Senator – 31st District