

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 – 16th District Gale Mastrofrancesco

Tony Scott State Representative – 80th District State Representative – 112th District

Pat Callahan State Representative – 108th District



Mark Anderson State Representative – 62nd District



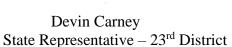
Heather Somers State Senator – 18th District

Dona M. Veach

Donna Veach State Representative – 30th District



Paul Cicarella State Senator – 34th District



Steve Weir State Representative – 55th District



Doug Dubitsky State Representative – 47th District

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



Martin Foncello State Representative – 107th District State Representative – 34th District

Irene Haines

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

Eric Berthel State Senator – 32nd District