

Remarks of Stephanie Hamed Borowy
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Before the State Dept. of Education and State Board of Education
Concerning the proposed changes to certification in Special Education

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Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Hamed Borowy and I'm a School Psychologist in Torrington, CT. I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the teacher certification procedure. As a Certified School Psychologist in a relatively large high school with a challenging population, I have had firsthand experience with situations that arise when a program lacks qualified, dedicated teachers. This proposal appears to hinder anyone attempting to enter the field when, in fact, they should all be encouraged to pursue these demanding, often thankless positions.

As fewer teachers are available, schools will be forced to "lump" students together in inappropriate groupings based on teacher availability rather than ability. I urge you to reconsider these changes, in light of the impact they will have on anyone choosing to enter the field, as well as on all of the students they serve.

Identifying and retaining dedicated, well – trained educational staff is already difficult enough – why create additional barriers for those who want to enter this field?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.