

HB114 – Senate Testimony

Chair **Brenner**, Vice Chair **Blessing**, Ranking Member **Ingraham**, and the members of the **Senate Education Committee**.....Thank you very much for inviting Representative **Bird** and I to testify today on **HB114**.

Our bill is quite simple.

- It would require public schools to admit to kindergarten any child who would be five years old by the **first day of instruction**.
 - Under current law, a local school board is permitted to use either **August 1st** or **September 30th** as the cut-off date.
 - What we are proposing is bringing uniformity to a system that has sometimes been confusing for parents and guardians, especially for families that may be moving from one district to another.
 - I also want to make clear that our bill preserves both the “**referral and evaluation process**” and the “**student acceleration process**” currently available to families seeking early admittance for their four-year old whom they believe to be “gifted.”