

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2015-010

State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, a career educator and since 2012, an IL State Senator, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 23, 2015 Location: Senator Bertino-Tarrant district office, Plainfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:31 / 1.52 hrs

Transcript
being processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 29 May, 2015.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Education is Key, E85-A-L-2015-010

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant was born in Joliet, Illinois in April, 1969, and graduated from St. Francis (Joliet) Academy in 1987. She earned a BS degree from Illinois State University in Criminal Justice Science, and in 1997 earned a MS degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Francis, Joliet. In 2007 she earned a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University in Chicago. Her work experience includes teaching social science courses at Providence High School (1994-98), assistant principal in the New Lenox School District (1998-2000), principal at Channahon Jr. High (2000-2004), and Will County Regional Superintendent from 2006-2012. In 2012, she was elected State Senator for the 49th District. At the time of the interview, Senator Bertino-Tarrant served on the Education, Licensed Activities and Pensions, Appropriations II, Local Government, and Transportation Committees. She is the vice chair of the Labor Committee. She has been appointed to the Illinois Youth Heroin Task Force, and serves as education liaison for the Midwestern Council of State Government.

The interview covers Senator Bertino-Tarrant's involvement with several of the 1985 Education Act reforms as a school administrator, Regional Superintendent of Schools, and now as State Senator. She addresses her experiences with state and local assessments, school report cards, school discipline plans, teacher evaluations, and activities to combat social promotion. All of these were part of the 1985 Education Reform Act. Also discussed were the issues of school reorganization in Will County and the relationship of the Regional Offices of Education with the governor, State Board of Education and local school districts. The Senator also addressed the legacy of the reforms and the current challenges dating back to 1985, including state funding, state mandates, meeting the needs of diverse learners, helping teachers be successful, and the importance of education to Illinois. The sixth month salary stalemate was also covered.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1985 Educational Reform Act; educational assessment in Illinois; Illinois's Learning Goals; Illinois State Report Cards; school discipline plans in Illinois; teacher evaluation in Illinois; role of Illinois Regional Office of Education; Illinois State Board of Education; school reorganization Will County; school funding challenges in Illinois and mandates

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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