



**Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Education Committee**

**February 13, 2007**

**SB 1060 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL EXPULSIONS**

**HB 7096 AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS AT SCHOOLS AND THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS**

**HB 7047 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY**

**SB 1110 AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION**

**SB 1094 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL BULLYING**

**SB 1060 An Act Concerning School Expulsions**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) is concerned that school district personnel might not have access to accurate information concerning “legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally” in order to provide this information to the parent or guardian of a student facing expulsion. We would suggest that the parent or guardian instead be directed to a centralized clearing house, such as Connecticut Legal Services or the Connecticut Bar Association.

**HB 7096 An Act Concerning Pesticide Applications at Schools and the Use of Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning and Maintenance Products in Schools**

CABE opposes the provisions of this bill which extend the absolute ban on the application of pesticides to middle and high schools. While we recognize the dangers in the use of some chemicals, there are situations where it is necessary to use some type of pesticide in order to maintain fields. Such pesticides should be part of a restricted plan, such as the integrated pest management plan that is currently required at elementary schools. It is important that professionals have the option of using pesticides when it is necessary. For example, there is no organic pesticide available to eliminate grubs, and grubs can devastate an entire sports field.

**HB 7047 An Act Concerning School District Accountability**

The provisions of HB 7047, An Act Concerning School District Accountability, to a large extent mirror the requirement for corrective action pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Law. We have two concerns about this bill - that there needs to be adequate flexibility available to the State Department of Education in implementation, should there be flexibility from the federal government, and that resources be available to the State Department of Education to have sufficient staff able to provide the subject area assistance needed by districts identified as in need of improvement.

**SB 1110 An Act Concerning Security Assistance for Education**

CABE supports the provisions of SB 1110, An Act Concerning Security Assistance for Education, which creates a competitive grant program to reimburse districts for expenses related to enhanced school security.

**SB 1094 An Act Concerning School Bullying**

CABE opposes the proposed change to the definition of bullying by deleting the reference to repeated acts. The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center defines bullying as “a wide variety of behaviors, but all involve a person or group repeatedly trying to harm someone who is weaker or more vulnerable.” A change in the definition may in fact result in the application of bullying policies to conduct which, while inappropriate, does not actually constitute bullying.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.