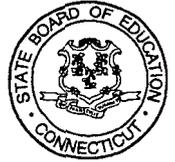




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2007

**TESTIMONY OF
GEORGE A. COLEMAN, INTERIM COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
ON**

**RAISED BILL 7176
AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Under current state special education statutes and regulations, a student requiring special education who turns twenty-one during the course of the school year is entitled to special education services until the end of that school year. Section 2 of Raised Bill 7176 proposes that those services end upon such a child's twenty-first birthday, regardless of when in the school year that birthday occurs. The Department of Education does not support this change as we believe that there is a benefit to these students to receive special education services for an entire year and the current system is manageable. Additionally, it should be noted that the financial impact on a town for these students, if they require costly special education services, is limited as a portion of those costs are paid by the state. Given these factors, the Department does not support the change proposed in Section 2 of this bill.

As to Section 5 of this bill, the Department believes that establishing a demonstration program to provide for instructional interventions for students who are struggling academically or behaviorally, but who are not identified as requiring special education, could be a valuable program. However, there are no funds in the Governor's budget for this purpose.