



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2007

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

**RAISED BILL 7177
AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS**

The sixty-two family resource centers in forty-one communities throughout the state provide valuable and wide-ranging services to Connecticut's communities. They promote comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development services and are located in or associated with public schools.

Raised Bill 7177 proposes to expand the types of services which must be provided by each center to include a parents as teachers program to help parents aid their children to reach developmental milestones. While many family resource centers provide this program already, new funds would enhance those programs and expand them to centers that do not have them already. However, there are no funds in the Governor's budget for these purposes.

Additionally, it should be noted that the Department of Education has concerns about Section 2 of this bill, which requires that the Department monitor this parents as teachers program and report on its efficacy in helping parents to aid their children to reach developmental milestones, including, but not limited to, milestones involving

cognitive, social, emotional and physical health. The Department does not have the staff or resources to do what would be required, and there are no funds in the Governor's budget for this purpose.