

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:  
Rep. Cafero



Date: 3/12/87 Bill Number: 7273

Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Good afternoon Chairman Gaffey, Chariman Fleischmann, Senator Herlihy, Representative Hovey and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for taking the time to raise HB 7273 *AAC Suspensions and Expulsions by Local and Regional Boards of Education* and holding this public hearing.

In my other life, I am an expulsion officer for the City of Norwalk's Board of Education. During my nearly fifteen years on the job, I have heard over 800 hearings dealing with students that have been either suspended or expelled. There are many different reasons these students had been removed from the classroom ranging from assaults, fighting, drugs, truancy, or other various reasons and these suspensions and expulsions stay on their permanent educational record until they graduate. This can be an impediment to a student being accepted into the college of their choice.

This bill would allow our local and regional board's of education some flexibility when handing out their punishments and allow the student who has done wrong a second chance to keep a clean academic record. House Bill 7273 would allow something similar to our judicial system's Accelerated Rehabilitation. Board's of education would be permitted to offer an alternative program rather than giving out a suspension or expulsion and would then remove the suspension or expulsion from the students record.

The current statutes do not provide for any flexibility when handling students and allow the school boards to work with the children to find how they should best be punished. For example, If a students was to vandalize the school with racist material, the student could be force to repair what they have damaged, attend a local NAACP meeting and write a report on what they learned. Helping the student learn from their mistake by confronting the reason it occurred is better for the student and the community, rather than just removing them from the educational environment for a week.

In conclusion, I again would like to thank the committee for holding this public hearing. I would like to see the committee move this bill forward so we can help our students who experience trouble in school.