



Advocating for teachers  
and public education

**Connecticut Education  
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Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:  
*Mary Loftus Levine*

Date: *3/12/07* Bill Number:  
*7291, 7350,*

*Testimony of  
Mary Loftus Levine, Political Action Coordinator  
Connecticut Education Association  
Before the Education Committee*

*Regarding*

***Raised Bill 7291 'An Act Concerning the Annual Invention  
Convention for Students'  
and  
Raised Bill 7350 'An Act Concerning the Prevention of  
Childhood Obesity'***

***March 12, 2007***

Good Afternoon Representative Fleischmann and Senator Gaffey. My name is Mary Loftus Levine and I am here to comment on two pieces of proposed legislation. Raised Bill 7291 'An Act Concerning the Annual Invention Convention for Students' and Raised Bill 7350 'An Act Concerning the Prevention of Childhood Obesity'.

The Connecticut Education Association supports Raised Bill 7291 which offers Connecticut students to participate in an exercise that contributed to life long learnings. Having students consider the needs of the future and future generations can only increase the students' skill levels in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Education Association supports the concept in Raised Bill 7350. It is clear with all recent studies that the present generation is not as fit as previous generations. The causes of such differences have been and are long debated daily, from fast food to lack of physical education. This bill turns to this problem at an early age but may be too prescriptive in its approach. There are several state and local initiatives, the goal of which is to prevent childhood obesity. To have the school test each child in this fashion could be cumbersome and counter productive if poorly administered.

We believe that integrating community services with the health and physical education goals of our system may be a better approach.

Thank you for your time.