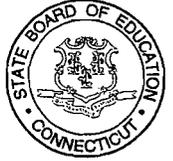




# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 12, 2007

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

**RAISED BILL 7354**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
AND VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION FOR CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND  
INTERNET SAFETY**

Clearly the use of technology in today's world makes it extremely important that Connecticut's students have access to and know how to use technology and that Connecticut's teachers are properly trained to maximize the use of available technological resources. Raised Bill 7354 adds these issues to the duties of the Commission on Educational Technology, and the Department of Education supports those changes.

However, the Department of Education has serious concerns about Sections 3 and 4 of this bill to the extent that it appears that if this legislation is enacted, the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium could deliver on-line courses for use in Connecticut's elementary and secondary schools without those courses having been reviewed and approved by the Department of Education as having met the state's curriculum standards. If the committee is interested in moving this bill forward, we would like to work with you on language to ensure that these concerns are addressed. Additionally, it should be noted that there are no funds in the Governor's budget for the purposes of this bill.