



Advocating for teachers  
and public education

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:  
Vincent Loffredo

Date: 3/12/07 Bill Number: 1354, 1355, 1413,  
7352, 7353, 7355, 7358,

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Testimony of Vincent J. Loffredo  
Lobbyist for Connecticut Education Association

Regarding Support of

**Raised Bill 7352 AAC A Leadership Academy for School  
Superintendents and Principals**  
**Raised Bill 7353 AAC An Alternate Route to Certification Program  
For Administrators**  
**Raised Bill 7355 AAC A Study Of Universal Preschool**  
**Raised Bill 7358 AAC Gifted and Talented Students**  
**Raised Bill 1354 AAC The Chairperson of the State Board of  
Education and the Appointment of the Commissioner of Education**  
**Raised Bill 1355 AAC Appropriations to the Even Start Program**  
**Raised Bill 1413 AAC In-School Suspensions**

March 12, 2007

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey and Representative Fleishmann and members of the Education Committee. My name is Vinnie Loffredo and I'm a lobbyist for the Connecticut Education Association. I am here today to comment in support of several bills.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 7352 AAC A Leadership Academy for School Superintendents and Principals**. We recognize the need for highly qualified school administrators and support a continuing education and support program which this bill provides for.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 7353 AAC An Alternate Route to Certification Program For Administrators**. CEA is supportive of this bill as long as the proposed alternate route to certification (ARC) program for school administrators meets the same type of rigorous standards that are in effect for the (ARC) program for Connecticut teachers.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 7355 AAC A Study of Universal Preschool**. We are a strong advocate of universal preschool. As this bill proposes, we support the feasibility study of expanding preschool availability to all four-year olds in the state.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 7358 AAC Gifted and Talented Students**. CEA urges the passage of this bill and the awarding of grants for special education services for those students that are identified as gifted and talented.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 1354 AAC the Chairperson of the State Board of Education and the Appointment of the Commissioner of Education.** We support the prospective impact and intent of this legislation. CEA believes that with all of the demands that public education faces in Connecticut it is imperative that the future chairpersons of the State Board of Education have a degree in the field of education. CEA also believes that future Commissioners of Education that are recommended by the Governor go through the executive nomination process.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 1355 AAC Appropriations to the Even Start Program.** CEA is supportive of the proposed appropriation of five million dollars to the Even Start program which administers family literacy programs throughout Connecticut.

Lastly, CEA supports **Raised Bill 1413 AAC In-School Suspensions.** We support in-school suspensions except in those situations when it has been determined by the school administration that the pupil being suspended poses a danger to persons or property or may be disruptive of the educational process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these bills.