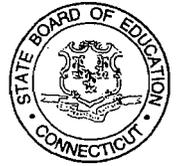




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2007

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

RAISED BILL 1282

AN ACT CONCERNING MODEL EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS

Under current law, \$200,000 is available annually for two pilot early childhood learning programs to receive \$100,000 each. However, the statute limits the towns in which these programs may be established and does not limit the length of time that a program can receive these funds. Consequently, new opportunities for additional programs to participate are limited. By removing the limitations on the types of school districts that are eligible to apply for these funds and by limiting eligibility to a five-year period, Raised Bill 1282 will allow more statewide models to emerge. Additionally, if these programs are associated with institutions of higher education, as proposed, the institutions can use the programs to do research, bring the latest information on research and practice to the community and conduct professional development.