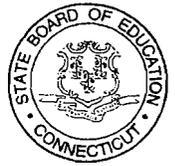




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2007

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

RAISED BILL 1287

AN ACT CONCERNING VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PERMITS

Raised Bill 1287 establishes a durational permit to qualify certain visiting international teachers to teach in subject shortage areas in Connecticut. The visiting international teachers who would be issued these permits would have J visas issued by the United States Department of State and would teach for a maximum of 3 years (1) in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between Connecticut and the country from which the teacher is entering or (2) as part of a J visa program administered by the United States Department of State Teacher Exchange Branch. In order to be issued such a certificate, the teacher would have to have successfully completed an oral proficiency in English examination approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Currently, international teachers are teaching in Connecticut's schools as part of visiting international teacher programs but there is no consistency in the type of credential that is issued by the State Board of Education to authorize these teachers to teach in the state. The durational permit proposed in Raise Bill 1287 will provide that consistency and will also simplify the process for school districts that want to employ

visiting international teachers. Visiting international teachers provide students and districts with rich diverse cultural experiences and can assist districts in filling needs for highly qualified teachers in subject shortage areas. The Department of Education supports this proposal and looks forward to working with the committee to address some drafting issues if this bill moves forward.