

Mayor Eddie A. Perez
Chairman, Hartford Board of Education
City of Hartford

Testin Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: Mayor Eddie Perez

The Conne
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**Hearing on Raised Bill No. 1405, An Act Concerning Intervention Model For
Schools In Need of Improvement and Concerning Urban Education**

Co-Chairs Gaffee and Fleischmann, Senator Fonfara and Representative Genga, Senator Herlihy and Representative Hovey, and members of the Committee on Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Bill No. 1405, An Act Concerning Intervention Model For Schools In Need of Improvement and Concerning Urban Education.

I applaud the Committee's collaborative approach in putting this bill together. A great deal of work and effort has been expended for the right reason, closing the achievement gap for Connecticut's children. The committee has taken a major step with this piece of legislation however, I am afraid that some of the language may be too prescriptive and have unintended consequences for districts like Hartford Public Schools.

I urge the Committee to be cautious with language that provides a single approach for all of Connecticut. Urban settings have needs that are unique and should be approached in a unique way. Should this piece of legislation pass as is, it would significantly come into conflict with Hartford Public School's current reform plans. To require that every single school in every district which does not make AYP on a whole school basis for 2 consecutive years be reconstituted in exactly the same way may not be the best solution. For example, it should not be against the law for a school district to re-arrange its schedule and length of literacy instruction if a need arises.

I appreciate the steps that the Committee has taken and I would be happy to work with the Committee should you need further input on issues affecting urban education. Thank you for your time and consideration.