



Written Testimony by David G. Carter, Chancellor
Connecticut State University System

Before the
Committee on Education
Tuesday, March 12, 2007

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischman and distinguished members of the Education Committee. I am unable to attend the Public Hearing in person but thank you for allowing me to express my support on several bills before you today.

Senate Bill 1405, An Act Concerning Intervention Model for Schools in Need of Improvement and Concerning Urban Education.

I would like to comment on several aspects of this bill. First, we support the efforts of the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish a **Teach-One competitive grant program** available to institutions of higher education to provide funds connecting children in priority and transitional school districts to trained volunteer tutors and mentors, including students attending institutions of higher education in Connecticut. The Program would allow the students in the Connecticut State Universities to get practical experience and, at the same time, provide much needed assistance to young children in our elementary and secondary schools.

In addition, we would support the efforts of the Commissioner of Education to establish a **teacher-mentor pilot grant program** available to priority school districts to increase teacher quality and retention and enhance the beginner educator support and training program by implementing innovative mentoring and coaching strategies available to new teachers.

However, I would respectfully request that Section 6 (3) be broadened **to include the Connecticut State Universities and other institutions of higher education** as this language limits "collaborate on the development and, if applicable, the implementation of innovative mentoring and professional coaching strategies" to The University of Connecticut and the Educational Service Delivery Center that is also established in this bill (Section 3).

Finally, I want to urge consideration of a revision to the language in Section 3, which allows for the School of Education at The University of Connecticut, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to establish an educational service-delivery center. The purpose is "to foster collaboration among educational professionals to provide field-based school improvement assistance." The purpose of the center is to increase collaboration between school personnel and university faculty specializing in educational research and to provide expertise and assistance to schools and school districts across the state with priority given to those schools identified as in need of improvement pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
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House Bill 7344, *An Act Concerning Recruitment and Retention of Teachers*

We would support the intent of Section 1 and the efforts of the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish a Program to prepare successful paraprofessionals for teaching careers and become certified. We would be happy to participate as institutions of higher education and be identified by the SDE and Department of Higher Education (DHE) to provide the necessary training for the program. It is critical however, to adequately fund the Program in order to ensure its success.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments.