



Advocating for teachers
and public education

*Testimony of
Mark Waxenberg, Director Government Relations
Connecticut Education Association
Before the Education Committee*

**Connecticut Education
Association**

Governance

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Regarding

- Raised Bill 7273 'An Act Concerning Suspensions and Expulsions
by Local and Regional Boards of Education'***
- Raised Bill 7274 'An Act Concerning Possession of Edged Weapons
at School'***
- Raised Bill 7347 'An Act Concerning Minor Changes to the
Education Statutes'***
- Raised Bill 7349 'An Act Concerning School Business
Administrators'***
- Raised Bill 7360 'An Act Concerning Transition from Preschool to
School'***

March 12, 2007

Good Afternoon Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey. My name is Mark Waxenberg, Director of Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association. I am here to comment on the following legislation.

- Raised Bill 7273 'An Act Concerning Suspensions and Expulsions by Local and Regional Boards of Education'*
- Raised Bill 7274 'An Act Concerning Possession of Edged Weapons at School'*
- Raised Bill 7347 'An Act Concerning Minor Changes to the Education Statutes'*
- Raised Bill 7349 'An Act Concerning School Business Administrators'*
- Raised Bill 7360 'An Act Concerning Transition from Preschool to School'*

Connecticut Education Association supports Raised Bill 7273. This bill gives school boards flexibility in determining the disciplinary actions it chooses to use in suspending and/or expelling students. Such legislation if enacted could motivate students to complete their education rather than distance themselves from the learning process.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: *Mark Waxenberg* 7360
 Date: 3/12/07
 Bill Number: 7273, 7274, 7347, 7349

Connecticut Education Association supports Raised Bill 7274. We have always supported increased safety measures for teachers and students in an educational setting.

Connecticut Education Association supports Raised Bill 7347 if the intent is to have individuals occupying administrative and/or teaching positions with Charter Schools are properly certified. Presently, there are administrators, directors, and teachers within Charter Schools that are not certified and have not been certified for some years. Standards for teachers and administrators in public education must be met in order to comply with NCLB and gain confidence of the public.

Connecticut Education Association does not support Raised Bill 7349 because it would be fiscally imprudent to add a new class of beneficiaries to a pension system that already has an unfunded liability of well over \$6 billion. The additional pension liability associated with these new beneficiaries would only exacerbate the financial distress of this fund.

Connecticut Education Association does not support Raised Bill 7360 the way it is drafted. We have consumed ourselves with testing and assessing within public education to the point that childrens education has become a gauntlet rather than a life long learning experience. Having 5 year olds subjected to assessments that are causing distress for young adults is going a little too far. We are to encourage young children to enter education with optimism and hope not to threaten them with anxiety and failure.

Thank you for your time, if you have any questions I will be more than happy to address them.