



Date: 3-12-07

Bill Number: 7291

STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

Regarding Raised House Bill 7291 An Act Concerning the Annual Invention Convention for Students Before the Education Committee March 12, 2007

Proposal:

Raised House Bill 7291 would provide state funds matching private donations for the annual Invention Convention for students, limited to a maximum state contribution of \$150,000 per year.

Comments:

AT&T Connecticut is pleased to support Raised House Bill 7291.

The Connecticut Invention Convention, created by classroom teachers nearly 25 years ago, serves approximately 10,000 Connecticut students every year. The program, which focuses on hands-on problem solving and innovation, supports the development of 21st Century Skills in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) areas. This program has received numerous awards and recognition and is a successful model of how out-of-school time programs can foster a real interest in science and math.

For the past six years, AT&T has been a proud supporter of the program by providing financial and staff support for the annual Invention Convention finale, which draws more than 600 students from grades 1 through 8. Over that period, AT&T has provided approximately \$15,000 in sponsorship funds and prizes for students to demonstrate our interest in Connecticut students' ability to showcase innovations in science and technology. AT&T employees (along with many other volunteers) donate their weekend time as volunteer judges for the event, held at the University of Connecticut's Gampel Pavilion. The company awards savings bonds to ten students who demonstrate pioneering use of technology, with creations such as a pet feeder triggered via a telephone call for those days when you cannot get home in time to feed your pet and a roll-up full size computer keyboard.

State support for the event would help leverage additional sponsorship dollars and help the Invention Convention expand to offer opportunities for more students – a very worthwhile investment in Connecticut.

Conclusion:

AT&T Connecticut supports RHB 7291 and recommends passage of the bill.