



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2007

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

RAISED BILL 7344

AN ACT CONCERNING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF TEACHERS

In the 2004 school year approximately 32% of Connecticut's students were minority students and minority staff statewide comprised 7.6% of all certified staff members. Several of the proposals in Raised Bill 7344 are to increase the percentage of minority staff to reduce this disparity. This is an important goal, and the Department of Education is supportive of efforts directed to work towards that goal. However, there are no funds in the Governor's budget for this purpose and should these proposals go forward the Department would like to work with the committee on the details of these programs.