

TESTIMONY: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools, New London and
Chair, Connecticut Urban Superintendents Association

REGARDING: Raised Bills 1405 and 7345

Public Hearing Testimony

Speaker:

Dr. Christopher
Clouet

I am here to support the intent of Raised B Date: 3/12/07 Bill Number: 1405, 7345
of the bill must be clarified.

There is no question that in order to address our students' needs we need to make systemic changes in our urban schools. The "urban initiative" will allow us to do this in a very deliberate way using best practice and collaboration. We will also have the facilitative and evaluative services of the Neag School of Education partnering with our urban school districts. This initiative is a win-win for our students and the citizens of Connecticut

I am also pleased that both the President Pro Tem of the Senate, Senator Donald Williams, and co-chair of this committee, the esteemed Senator Thomas Gaffey, have expressed their support for this initiative, and I personally thank them on behalf of the Connecticut Urban Superintendents.

I am also here today to speak in opposition to the ill conceived accountability provision outlined in Raised Bill Number 7345. This unscientific rating system, if adopted, would make NCLB look reasonable, which it is not.

There is no statistical validity to the kind of A-F report card and, in fact, our own State Department of Education has strongly advised against this kind of superficial rating system. If adopted, this law would only serve to further discourage our students and staff. I would also point out that Connecticut already has an extensive reporting system for each school and school district. It is called the Strategic School Profile.

By the way, there is nothing in the NCLB law that requires this kind of rating system.

We do support the realistic accountability system and the resources recommended in the Governor's budget.

Thank you.