

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
Juan Candelaria



Date:
3/12/07

Bill Number:
7359

connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
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March 12, 2007

Re: Testimony for RB 7359 AAC a grant program to combat truancy.

Thank you Senator Gaffey, Representative Flieschman and the entire membership of the Education Committee for providing me with this opportunity to speak on Raised Bill No. 7359.

Bill number 7359 will be an invaluable asset to my constituents in the city of New Haven. In the city of New Haven we currently face a drop-out rate in our school system which exceeds the state average. A number of factors have contributed to our significant truancy and drop out rate, including a lack of a family, and school support systems. Without family and school support systems we cannot expect to help influence our children to see the importance of education. With this grant money we can perhaps start to find a solution to the lack of academic success which is prevalent in our inner city school systems. With the passage of this bill we can work to stop the problem of truancy before it starts, and help our schools to enforce disciplinary policies that may curb unexcused absences, and eventually we will decrease school drop out rates.

I am specifically encouraged by this bills potential for making positive changes in the way we enforce the disciplinary procedures all ready in place by providing for, "tutoring, mentoring, and other academic or life skills initiatives for students at risk of being truant." Another aspect of the bill which is especially promising is the provision which encourages the involvement of parents and guardians in truancy prevention programs. Parental involvement in education is as we all know necessary for the success of any child in school.

I urge the members of the committee to work to pass this bill, as well as bills like it, far too many times we talk about the importance of the enforcement of policies to curb truancy, but we do not act. It is time for members of this committee to act on this bill and bills similar in nature so that we can start to address the problems we face in our underperforming school systems

Thank you for your time and consideration.