

**Education Committee
Public Hearing
February 20, 2007**

RE: Bill No. 1113, AAC Unified School District #1 Education Credit

Good Afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and distinguished members of the Education Committee. My name is Christine Murphy, Director of Special Education for the Department of Correction, here on behalf of Commissioner Theresa Lantz, I'm here in support of **Bill No. 1113, AAC Unified School District #1 Education Credit.**

As you all may be aware, Unified School District #1 is the school district for our state's prison system. Section 1 of Public Act 06-192, which makes revisions to Sec.10-220(h), provides the opportunity for students leaving the Unified School District #1 to re-integrate back into their communities and become productive members of society. Many students who enroll in school within the Unified School District #1 have, for the first time, attained educational success and view education as a positive experience. Transfer of credit to their community schools will allow them to foster this positive experience and continue on their educational endeavors.

Bill No. 1113 makes only one minor change to this statute in that it clarifies that it is the responsibility of the school district in which the ex-offender enrolls in to contact USD #1 to receive any education records we may have on the student so as to ensure proper credit.

Research has shown that one of the major factors that positively impact rates of recidivism is education. I support this change to the statute as it enhances the Department of Correction's re-entry strategy and its mission to assist "...offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration."

I urge the Committee's support of Bill No. 1113 and the benefits it supports. At this time I would be happy to address any questions you may have.