



**CONNECTICUT FEDERATION OF  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS  
AFSA - AFL-CIO**



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March 12, 2007

To: Senator Thomas Gaffey  
Representative Andrew Fleischmann  
Co-Chairman

And

Members of the Education Committee

From: Roch J. Girard  
President

RE: Support for the following bill:

**Raised Bill No. 1405 AAC Intervention Model For Schools In Need Of Improvement  
And Concerning Urban Education.**

As school administrators, we in CFSA are proud to be a founding partner in this exciting new urban initiative. We believe this comprehensive initiative will go a long way in addressing the student achievement gap in our urban settings. In establishing the CommPact Schools, a unique concept will be put into motion. This historic coalition/alliance of school superintendents; teachers from both the CEA and AFT-CT; schools administrators and school boards all working in concert with a new Center for Urban Education at UConn's Neag School of Education, is indeed unprecedented in Ct..

The proposed CommPACT schools will benefit from the Neag School's resources, research and experience, and will integrate researched-based and best practices into classrooms.

These schools will be formed through the collaboration of all parties and with parents to promote autonomy in areas of governance, budgeting and curriculum. The service centers will assist school districts in recruiting new teachers, and provide these teachers with an intense program of support once they are hired. The centers will also provide unprecedented opportunities for administrators to enhance their skills with critical support in mentoring and coaching.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: Roch Girard  
Date: 3/12/07 Bill Number: 1405

This concept allows education stakeholders, the practitioners—US- who are in the trenches each and every day- to have a new voice in presenting what we believe needs to be done- systemically- to affect real changes in addressing the complex issues confronting teaching/learning relationships, and pedagogy used in our urban schools.

This concept will afford us a new model of leadership at all levels in our urban centers. Once we see what works, or what does not work, we can adapt our skills to meet the challenges. We will share our successes with our colleagues across the state.

It must be stated that it is imperative that the CommPACT school start up grants should be determined and administered by the 'UConn Center. We believe that the program design, funding, administration and decision making should be in the control of the 'UConn Center.

Finally, we look at this proposal as a unique concept, and one whose time has come. Recognizing that the Governor and Legislature has made education one of the highest priorities this session, we believe the timing of this initiative is perfect.

Thank you.