



Written Testimony of Vincent J. Loffredo
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Presented to
Education Committee
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**Connecticut Education
Association**

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Regarding

**Raised Bill 5820 AAC High School Credit for Private World
Language Courses Raised Bill 5821 AAC Distance Learning
Raised Bill 611 AAC Recycling Programs in Schools
Raised Bill 644 AAC A Study of the Open Choice Program
Raised Bill 645 AAC A Study of Issues Concerning the
Interdistrict Magnet School Grant Program**

CEA opposes **Raised Bill 5820 AAC High School Credit for Private World Language Courses**. We believe it is totally inappropriate expenditure of the time and resources of the State Department of Education to be engaged in the development of examinations to determine the awarding of graduation credits for high school diplomas. The determination of the awarding of credits at Connecticut secondary schools for graduation purposes and the awarding of diplomas is determined by certified staff within each school district.

CEA opposes **Raised Bill 5821 AAC Distance Learning**. We believe that distance-learning technology should be used to enhance course offerings for students and to provide courses that would otherwise not be available. It should not be used to supplant teachers but to support them. We also believe that all levels of the educational community should be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of distance learning programs. We believe that a collaborative approach works best. Local and regional boards should not be ordered to participate as prescribed in this bill.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 611 AAC Recycling Programs in Schools**. We are a strong advocates of recycling and other eco-friendly activities. We assume that most if not all of Connecticut's public schools are already engaged in recycling. However, since this may not yet be the universal practice, and if this bill will help us achieve that end, the CEA offers its strong support.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 644 AAC A Study of the Open Choice Program**

We support the study of issues concerning the open choice program under section 10-266aa of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

CEA supports **Raised Bill 645 AAC A Study of Issues Concerning the Interdistrict**

Magnet School Grant Program. We support the study of issues concerning the interdistrict magnet school grant program under section 10-2641 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.