



Written Testimony of Vincent J. Loffredo
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Presented to
Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Regarding
Raised Bill 5723 An Act Concerning Discrimination

**Connecticut Education
Association**

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*CEA supports the passage of Raised Bill 5723 An Act Concerning
Discrimination.*

Specifically, section 8 and section 9 of *Raised Bill 5723* respectively prohibit discrimination of children or teachers based on gender identity or expression.

The CEA has maintained for many years, through its resolutions, strong opposition to all forms of discrimination including that which is based on sexual orientation/gender identification.

In part, our resolutions declare:

“The CEA believes that our public schools are the cornerstone of our social, economic, and political structure and are of utmost significance in the development of cultural values.

The Association also believes that life in our democratic society is enhanced by the diversity of its citizens.

The Association further believes a democratic society requires a system of public education that will prepare its citizens to recognize, appreciate, and work with all people.

The Association believes that all persons regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, religion, physical capabilities, age, size, intellectual capabilities, sexual orientation/gender identification, or socioeconomic background should be afforded equal opportunity within the public education system.”

CEA has a history of strong and effective advocacy for the rights for children and all employees within our public schools.

We urge the committee to vote in favor of *Raised Bill 5723* that prohibits discrimination based on gender identification or expression.