



CT Academy for Education *in Mathematics, Science and Technology, Inc.*
Public Testimony for HB 6571
March 9, 2009

Good afternoon Chairmen Gaffey and Fleischmann and members of the committee. My name is Richard Cole, I am the President & CEO of the Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science & Technology, Inc. (CT Academy), a 501©3 organization incorporated in Connecticut. We support passage of HB 6571, An Act Concerning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Issues in Connecticut *with modifications to the current language.*

We ARE NOT asking for money. We believe that HB 6571 strengthens the state's capacity to develop funding sources outside of Connecticut to support mathematics, science and technology education. Over the past 17 years, the CT Academy has facilitated state and national partnerships to bring over \$16 million into the state to support mathematics, science and technology (MST) education.

The CT Academy's autonomy has shaped its success to serve as a statewide advocate and catalyst for mathematics, science and technology as foreseen by the legislature, through a joint resolution, almost two decades ago. Therefore, while we support the intent of HB 6571, we believe the state is most effectively served with an impartial convening resource that is independent of the authority of the Department of Education (as currently written) or any other state agency.

Over the past 17 years, the CT Academy has provided an unbiased platform upon which many organizations have researched, discussed and reached consensus about MST education issues. For instance, Governor Rell used the CT Academy to acquire out-of-state funding and to serve as a nexus to bring more than 150 citizens, business, policy, and education leaders to develop a comprehensive plan to improve MST education. Some of those recommendations have been put into place without cost to the state and others are included in the State Department of Education's proposed secondary school reform initiative.

Other examples of the CT Academy's impartial convening capacity include our report to this committee on Evaluating the Impact of Supplementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Programs and our facilitation of a team of five mathematics organizations that is now developing Connecticut's new Algebra I curriculum. The CT State Department of Education intends to use the Algebra I curriculum as a model to launch its proposed secondary school reform effort.

The CT Academy seeks neither money nor turf through passage of the modified HB 6571. We seek the legislature's authorization to continue to serve as an impartial advocate, catalyst, and convening agent for education issues relating to mathematics, science and technology in Connecticut -- as you envisioned in 1991.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
Richard C. Cole, President & CEO



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The current bill language is:

Raised Bill No. 6571 - AN ACT CONCERNING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS ISSUES IN CONNECTICUT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:
Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2009). *The State Board of Education may authorize the Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology to serve as an impartial convening agent for organizations, teachers, administrators, school officials, policymakers, parents and students to foster, promote, study, report and make recommendations to the board on education issues relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Connecticut.*

CT Academy for Education replacement language would read:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:
Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2009). *The CT General Assembly authorizes the Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology, Inc. to serve as an impartial convening agent for education issues relating to science, technology, and mathematics in Connecticut.*