



*Testimony of  
Mark Waxenberg, Director Government Relations  
Connecticut Education Association*

*Testimony  
Before the  
Education Committee*

*House Bill #6654 'An Act Establishing a Resident Teacher Certificate,  
House Bill #6658 'An Act Concerning Charter Schools, and  
House Bill #6653, 'An Act Concerning Visiting International Teachers'*

*March 16, 2009*

**Connecticut Education  
Association**

**Governance**

Philip Apruzzese, President  
Sheila Cohen, Vice President  
Cheryl Prevost, Secretary  
Jeff Leake, Treasurer  
Rae Baczek, NEA Director  
Maureen Honan, NEA Director

**Executive Office**

Dr. John Yrchik  
Executive Director

**Government Relations**

Mark Waxenberg, Director  
Capitol Place, Suite 500  
21 Oak Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-8001  
860-525-5641, 800-842-4316  
Fax: 860-725-6362  
www.cea.org

Affiliated with the  
National Education  
Association

Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. I am Mark Waxenberg and I am the Director of Government Relations of the Connecticut Education Association.

I am here to comment on three bills before you today, House Bill #6654 'An Act Establishing a Resident Teacher Certificate', House Bill #6658 'An Act Concerning Charter Schools', and House Bill #6653, 'An Act Concerning Visiting International Teachers'.

House Bill #6654 'An Act Establishing a Resident Teacher Certificate'. The Connecticut Education Association (CEA) is not opposed to the establishment of a Resident Teacher Certificate but can not support this bill in its present form. Specifically, the GPA of 2.75 requirement reduces present statutory requirements of a B average to enter an ARC Program, the State Board of Education sets the qualifying score rather than the Commissioner, the local Superintendent of Schools should request the renewal extension rather than the ARC provider and the student must be enrolled in a Connecticut ARC Program. Those concerns being addressed with other clarifying language may result in the CEA advocating for the passage of such legislation.

House Bill #6658 'An Act Concerning Charter Schools'. Again, here we have legislation that CEA could support with clarifying language and modification made to 10-158a. I have attached a section from the State Auditors report last year that addresses concerns of transparency and accountability for Charter School Management Organization (CSMO's). Incorporating these accountability measures as well as modifications to 10-158a that are needed for clarification into the proposal could result in CEA's support for this proposal.

Lastly, House Bill #6653, 'An Act Concerning Visiting International Teachers'. Simply stated, these teachers are the only certified staff not listed or part of 10-153b and it is wrong. They are teachers and should be recognized as such and not be left in legal limbo when accused of a DCF change or disciplined without just cause. There is no restriction anywhere in any agreement with another country that prohibits international teachers being part of the local collective bargaining group, if there is one. Therefore, we should allow them to join the local teachers union if they choose to do so. We have been seeking this change in statute with State Department of Education's cooperation, but that unfortunately has not worked out for a variety of reasons. We urge you to support H.B. #6653.