



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony
Submitted to the
Planning and Development Committee**

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HB 5526 AN ACT CONCERNING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

SB 394 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE MANDATE RELIEF

HB 6388 AN ACT PROVIDING MANDATE RELIEF TO MUNICIPALITIES

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports many of the bills before you today, which are an effort to alleviate the burden of unfunded state mandates. This is a priority for boards of education at a time where they are attempting to develop budgets within the constraints of scarce local and state resources.

CABE particularly supports HB 5526, An Act Concerning In-School Suspensions, which would delay the implementation of the in-school suspension legislation until on or after July 1, 2012. Postponing implementation of a statute with a fiscal impact which has not yet gone in to effect is appropriate.

CABE supports SB 394, An Act Concerning State Mandate Relief, which would not only suspend the requirements of the in-school suspension legislation, but also impose a three year moratorium on any new unfunded mandates. As boards of education examine how to deliver effective educational programs within budgetary constraints, it is the ideal time to reexamine the costs and benefits of state educational mandates before enacting additional requirements.

CABE also supports HB 6388, An Act Providing Mandate Relief to Municipalities. Among other provisions, this bill would suspend binding arbitration for two years, providing immediate relief to communities. CABE strongly supports the provision in section 6 which increases to 10 percent the amount of budget reserve that arbitrators would be prohibited from considering as available to funded arbitration award. The provision in Section 19 makes it clear that two or more "schools" may jointly perform functions that they may perform separately. We urge you to clarify the language to refer to school districts.

