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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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**Raised Bill 6496
An Act Concerning Green Cleaning Products in Schools**

**Committee on Education
February 23, 2009**

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers the following comments regarding Raised Bill 6496, An Act Concerning Green Cleaning Products in Schools.

In general, this bill requires local and regional school boards of education to implement green cleaning programs for the cleaning and maintenance of school buildings and facilities; it does not affect cleaning protocols in state buildings or facilities.

The only sections of the bill that affect DAS are Sections 1 (d) and (e). Section 1(d) requires DAS, in consultation with DEP and DPH, to develop "guidelines for the procurement of environmentally preferable cleaning products and best cleaning management practices in schools." While DAS has expertise in contracting processes and is responsible for executing and administering goods and services contracts for executive branch state agencies, DAS has no expertise whatsoever in "best cleaning management practices" – in schools or other buildings.

DAS already has guidelines for use by state agencies and their contractors for environmentally preferred cleaning products. This policy is based on Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4b-15a, the statute that governs cleaning products that must be used in state-owned buildings. However, since the § 4b-15a standards for cleaning products differ than those outlined in Raised Bill 6496, this bill would require DAS to create separate guidelines for use only by local and regional boards of education. This would be an unprecedented and unusual task for DAS, since DAS is charged with awarding and administering contracts for executive branch agencies.

Section 1 (e) of this bill also requires DAS to prepare a list of vendors who sell environmentally preferable products that meet the standards established by a certified independent third party, provide free training, and offer discounts through bulk purchasing agreements. Again, this is outside of DAS's current scope of authority and area of expertise.

DAS certainly can provide lists of vendors who are on state cleaning supply contracts, and indeed all such contracts, pricing and vendor information can already be found on the DAS Website - State Contracting Portal. However, the language of this bill extends

beyond companies who have bid on and have been awarded state contracts. As written, this bill would require DAS to research and evaluate all companies that may sell such products, determine which products have been certified under the new standards (again, the standards are different than those used by state agencies and contractors in state-owned buildings), and assess the companies' pricing and training schedules. These tasks extend far beyond DAS Procurement Unit's current duties and DAS currently does not have the expertise or resources to undertake such responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Raised Bill 6496. Please contact DAS's legislative liaison, Andrea Keilty (713-5267), if you have any questions regarding this testimony or other DAS issues.