



# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR JOHN A. KISSEL**  
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**RANKING MEMBER**  
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**MEMBER**  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
SENATE MINORITY SCREENING COMMITTEE

**Public Hearing Testimony**  
**Monday, February 23, 2009**  
**Planning & Development Committee**  
**Written Testimony of John A. Kissel, State Senator**

**RE: HB 5526**

*An Act Concerning In School Suspensions*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my support of **HB 5526, An Act Concerning In School Suspensions**. Currently there are a number of municipal mandates that although required by the state, are not also funded by the state. While many of these mandates may seem financially inconsequential, the costs do add up and are then passed on to local tax payers in the form of higher property taxes.

Additionally, much like the state and federal government, local budgets are being severely affected by the economic crisis. We should be doing all that we can to ease the tax burden on struggling towns, not add to their financial responsibilities. Specifically, HB 5526 proposes the elimination of in-school suspensions, which all of my towns' school boards adamantly oppose. The elimination of in-school suspension would help to level the local tax burden on our citizens as they do all that they can to climb out of this period of economic decline.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you on this issue and I am hopeful you will look favorably on HB 5526 as it will save municipalities and their citizens money at a time when they desperately need it.