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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Education Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

From: David J Calchera, Director Public Policy, CAPSS

Date: March 15, 2010

Subject: **S.B. 440 AAC School District and Teacher Performance Programs;  
H.B. 5490 AAC The Minimum Budget Requirement**

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Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischman and members of the Committee. My name is David Calchera and I am representing the Connecticut Association of Public School Administrators (CAPSS) as their Director of Public Policy.

Our Executive Director, Joseph Cirusuolo and a number of our member Superintendents will be providing testimony on a number of Bills today; I will limit my comments to 440 and 5490.

There is no more important factor in student learning than having an effective teacher; preferably a series of effective teachers collaborating in a school that is guided by an effective principal as instructional leader. While other proposed Bills seek to establish a correlation between high performing students and effective principals and teachers, Bill 440 attempts a correlation between effective teachers and principals and their preparing institutions.

Superintendents of Schools are ultimately responsible for the performance of their districts. As consumers of teacher preparation institutions, it would be helpful for us to have an idea of the quality of that preparation, at least as measured by the effectiveness of their graduates in our classrooms.

House Bill 5490 attempts to reduce ECS grant amounts to districts experiencing reductions in student populations. CAPSS' position is that the entire framework of education funding, including funding to magnet, choice and charter programs, is in need of review and revision, including sources of revenue as well as the formula. This Bill addresses a small piece of that formula and should not be applied without a review of the entire process.

Thank you for your time.