



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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

March 10, 2010

**SB 197 AN ACT CONCERNING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS
SB 198 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES
HB 5337 AN ACT AUTHORIZING TWO OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES TO PURSUE JOINT
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS
HB 5031 AN ACT REDUCING COSTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

SB 197, An Act Concerning In-School Suspensions. This bill postpones the restriction on out of school suspension from July 1, 2010 until July 1, 2012. CABE supports this bill as it would allow districts to prioritize resources in a time of significant budget constraints.

SB 198, An Act Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote to Enact New Municipal Mandates. CABE supports this proposal, but since it is not effective until October 1, 2010, CABE urges the committee to reject any new mandates this year.

HB 5337, An Act Authorizing Two or More Municipalities to Pursue Joint Employee Health Insurance Plans. CABE supports this bill to allow municipalities to jointly purchase health insurance and urges the committee to amend the bill to include regional and local boards of education. Creating more opportunities for cost savings is a benefit to all. These savings can help to maintain educational programs and teachers.

HB 5031, An Act Reducing Costs to Municipalities. Section 31 postpones the restriction on out of school suspension from July 1, 2010 until July 1, 2012. CABE supports this section.

There are various bills before you today that deal with revenue sources. CABE supports comprehensive tax reform in Connecticut that:

1. is balanced and fair and will produce the revenues necessary to support quality public education and other needed public services;
2. reduces reliance on the local property tax, sales tax or other regressive forms of taxation; and
3. assures that distribution of the tax burden is based upon the ability to pay.

We appreciate your attention to these issues.