

Testimony Opposing S.B. 197 – “An Act Concerning In-School Suspensions”

George Sugai, Ph.D.

Planning & Development Committee

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Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey, and distinguished Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is George Sugai, and I am a professor and Carole J. Neag Endowed Chair in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. I am also the Co-Director of the U.S. Department of Education Center of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Direct of the Center on Behavioral Education and Research at the Neag School of Education.

The purpose of this written testimony is to express my strongest opposition to S.B. 197 – “AN ACT CONCERNING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS.” S.B. 197 seeks a two-year delay to implementation of Connecticut’s 2007 suspension law, from July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2012. The law was originally intended to go into effect on July 1, 2008; its effective date has already been postponed twice.

I have invested my career studying and promoting positive, preventive, and effective learning and teaching for *all* students. The use of reactive management practices, like out of school suspension, has not proven to be effective in improving student academic or behavioral outcomes, especially, for the students with the highest at-risk needs. In contrast, these students who experience such reactive management practices have some of our worst academic, emotional, and behavioral outcomes, and unfortunately, impose a significant economic and social cost on communities, schools, and families. What works with these kids is preventive, constructive, positive, effective, and relevant academic and behavioral supports.

To reiterate, please uphold the 2007 Connecticut suspension law by opposing S.B. 197, and let's turnaround how we invest in success for *all* our children and youth.

Thank you for time and attention.



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