



CONNECTICUT FEDERATION OF
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS
AFSA - AFL-CIO



Roch J. Girard
President

Paul J. Rebor
Vice-President

Patricia K. Moore
Secretary

Elaine Pappas
Treasurer

E-mail: RGirard@ctadm.org
www.ctadmin.org

February 28, 2010

To: Senator Andrea Stillman
Representative Andrew Fleishmann
Co Chairpersons- Education Committee
And
Members of the Education Committee

From: Roch J. Girard
President-CFSA

RE: Testimony on Today's Bill

Raised Bill No. 6432 AAC Closing The Academic Achievement Gap.

We praise the intent of this bill. Over the past few years there have been MANY committee and commissions established to address the achievement gap. If you make this task force-The Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap- THE task force, you would have done a good thing. We would like the composition of the group to be as varied as possible with legislators, education stakeholder, business and philanthropic organizations involved, and not just the persons identified on lines 43-



57. We all know the achievement gap MUST be addressed with real, practical concrete solutions. Having the SDE develop a model curricula in reading and in mathematics for our prekindergarten to grade four students sound good but does one set curricular (one size fits all) meet the requirements/needs of ALL our students in an urban setting?

The requirements on the SDE are many as listed in the responsibilities in this bill. Do they have the personnel to complete the bill requirements?

Will the SBE, charged with establishing a State Education Resource Center, have the capacity to establish such a center?

The bill calls for the dissemination of grant moneys in establishing the new curricular, training, support for textbooks, etc. but, will the resources be there to get the job done?

Though we support the concept promoted in this bill the bottom line once again come down to personnel, resources and money! Given the fiscal hole we are in, I question the viability and sustainability inherent in this bill.

Raised Bill 6443 AAC Educators and Administrators

As part of the RTTT, legislation last year we supported the Alternate Routes to Certification providing the HIGHEST standards would be asked of candidates seeking the Alternate Route. Being certified as a teacher or as an administrator is a license to practice in our profession. We do not support non-certified teachers working in our public schools. EVERY teacher or administrator should be certified. Our students deserve no less.

As a matter of policy, CFSA does not support ARC programs.

Thank you.

