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Advocating for teachers
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Testimony of

Ray Rossomando

Connecticut Education Association

Before the

Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

**Re: HB6627 An Act Concerning a Tax Credit for Corporate
Donations to Scholarship Funds.**

March 28, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, and members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. My name is Ray Rossomando, Legislative Coordinator for the Connecticut Education Association, which advocates for high-quality public education.

On behalf of 45,000 active and retired teachers across the state, we testify today in strong opposition of *HB6627 AAC a Tax Credit for Corporate Donations to Scholarship Funds*.

HB6627 would provide tax credits to corporations for the purpose of sending students to private and sectarian schools. As a matter of public policy, sending public funds along with students to schools with religious purposes violates the separation of church and state. Funding other sectarian schools in this manner further risks redirecting tax dollars to purposes that could conflict with the public interest.

As a matter of fiscal policy, it is not in the best interest of Connecticut's budget to appropriate funds for students to attend schools on one side of the ledger and then make tax expenditures for some of the same students to attend private, sectarian, and/or religious schools on the other. This is true of any fiscal climate, but especially true given the challenges of balancing the budget for this biennium.

In the end, HB6627 depletes fiscal resources from the State budget that could be better used to ensure resources are available to all students who attend their neighborhood public school.

Thank you.