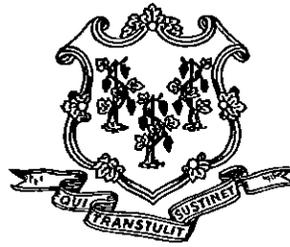


SENATOR GARY D. LEBEAU

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March 29th, 2011

Senate Co-Chair Eric Coleman
House Co-Chair Representative Gerald Fox
Judiciary Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Testimony in Support of: Senate Bill-1163, An Act Concerning Assault of a School Employee

Good afternoon, I want to thank Co-Chairs Coleman and Fox, Vice Chairs Doyle and Holder-Winfield, Ranking Members Kissel and Hetherington, as well as distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of ***Senate Bill-1163, An Act Concerning Assault of a School Employee***

This measured legislation assists teachers, other school employees and students to create a safe environment, necessary for education in our schools.

The proposal does not require and will not encourage more arrests in school, since a student who assaults a school employee now is still committing a crime. The proposal does not really create a "new crime" (i.e. make a particular conduct illegal that was previously legal). Rather, it merely recognizes the seriousness of the conduct and provides the police and courts with options that would be appropriate given the seriousness of the conduct.

If a person assaults a school employee now, the employee or school could call the police or it could handle it internally. The proposal does not effect this option. If called now, the police could arrest or not arrest the person. The proposal does not effect that decision either. If a weapon is used or if the injury is considered to be serious, the person could be charged with assault in the first or second degree, whichever is appropriate. This would still be an option under the proposal. Both assault in the first degree and assault in the second degree are SJO charges for a juvenile (right now 16 and under, after 7/1/12, 17 and under). The proposal does not change that either. If the police do arrest a juvenile, they could, but they don't have to, bring the juvenile to a juvenile detention center. This proposal does not change that option either.

Thank you again for you affording me the opportunity to speak before the Committee on this reasonable measure and in advance for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary LeBeau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary LeBeau
State Senator, 3rd District