



**Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Planning and Development Committee  
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**HB 5155 AA Modifying the Ban on Pesticide Application on School Grounds**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports HB 5155, An Act Modifying the Ban on Pesticide Application on School Grounds, which would allow the use of pesticides as part of an integrated pest management plan. This will enable schools efforts to safely care for the grounds of Connecticut's schools so that students can safely play without incident. The use of Integrated Pest Management plans is a far better strategy for the life cycle of the lawn and the pests that can control it.

Many districts have sport fields which have deteriorated to such a degree that play on them could cause injury because the grass is patchy and the dirt spots are too prevalent. Boards of education have adopted integrated pest management plans and the best implementation of the plans has been derailed by the ban on pesticides.

Often it is a matter of the timing in caring for the field. All of the plantings that have also made the grounds so attractive have suffered and now are not worth the financial investment to replace.

We have heard from grounds staff that plans for a new wing to buildings that include plantings are not even realistic because the upkeep can't be done.

We appreciate your attention to this issue.