

TESTIMONY
Education Committee

**HB 6507 AN ACT CONCERNING A SLIDING TUITION SCALE FOR PRESCHOOL
PROGRAMS OFFERED AT INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAMS.**

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Good afternoon Representative Fleischman, Senator Stillman and members of the Education Committee. My name is David Calchera and I am the Director of Public Policy for CAPSS.

I am here today to express our support for HB 6507, An Act Concerning A Sliding Tuition Scale For Preschool Programs Offered At Interdistrict Magnet School Programs.

I want to first express our overall support for increasing the availability of high quality pre-school experiences for all of Connecticut's children. Superintendents understand that children who have had such experiences enter school with advantages over those who have not.

Having said that, it is a reality that, at present, districts are not required to provide pre-school services; in fact, they are not even required to provide full-time kindergarten and many do not. When parents choose a magnet pre-school program, it is unfair to expect districts to pay tuition for such services that are unavailable to their students as a whole; further, payment of such tuition reduces local budgets and limits their ability to provide programming for others.

In addition, it is clear that these are services that some parents would otherwise purchase were they not available at these magnet programs. It is fair to ask some who have the means to at least partially support program tuition and ensure that they are available for others, regardless of family means.

CAPSS believes this Bill addresses the immediate impact of tuition requirements on a large number of our districts.