



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*



**Connecticut General Assembly – Education Committee**  
**Testimony of Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor**  
**March 4, 2013**

Thank you Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Ackert, and members of the Education Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts on legislation before you today, and look forward to discussing each of these important issues further at a future date.

Regarding HB 6504, An Act Concerning Alternative School Programs, the Department supports the idea of ensuring that Alternative School Programs are held accountable and are offering quality programs. We believe that we must have an accurate report of where every student is being educated, and they must have access to an appropriately rigorous course of study, while still having the flexibility provided by alternative schools and programs. As written, it is not clear whether this precise proposal fully accomplishes these goals. We welcome further dialogue.

Regarding SB 997, An Act Establishing an Educator Preparation Advisory Council, we have concerns with the bill's current form (that is, as amended from its original State Board of Education-approved form). We look forward to discussing this bill, as well as the work that EPAC has engaged in since its formation by the State Board of Education last year.

As transparency is a shared and critical objective, we support SB 998, An Act Concerning Regional Educational Service Center Budgets, as written.

Thank you.