



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO Before the Education Committee March 4, 2013

Senator Stillman and Representative Fleishman and members of the committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I am the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated unions representing over 200, 000 union members across this great state.

In concept we support **H.B. No. 6502 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARAPROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL. (ED)**. However, as the bill is drafted the intent of showing the importance of Paraprofessionals to this advisory council is not clear. Currently Paraprofessionals represent only five of the members of the advisory council and the intent we believe was to give them a majority voice. There is a bill HB 6183 that carries out the intent of the discussions regarding this advisory council.

We support **S.B. No. 1002 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. (ED)**. This bill is a wonderful example of this Committee's ongoing commitment to the educational needs of our communities.

This bill calls for a "public school that participates in a coordinated, community-based effort with community partners to provide comprehensive educational, developmental, family, health and wrap-around services during non school hours for students, families and community members with the objective of improving academic achievement, building school and community engagement and improving the skills, capacity and well-being of the community in which such school is located."

We look forward to working with this committee to get these bills through the process and onto the Governor's desk for his signature.

If you have any questions I would be happy to address them at this time.

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