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**Education Committee
Public Hearing
Friday, March 15, 2013
Testimony In Support of,
Senate Bill 1099 An Act Concerning School Safety**

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Stillman, Representative Fleishchmann and Ranking Members Senator Boucher and Representative Ackert and members of the Education Committee.

I appreciate the committee raising this bill in an attempt to deal with the important issue of school safety.

Over the past few months, many districts are contemplating how to keep our children in a safe learning environment. Given the constrained education budgets, schools are looking for the most cost effective alternatives. Districts are beginning to navigate through the process of employing private citizens as armed security guards. The process requires making sure that the Board creates a written agreement with the employee in order to insulate that employee from committing a felony. Further, it requires licensing of these guards with appropriate permits and requires licensing of the schools to own and possess firearms. Currently, our laws do not expressly contemplate these armed guards and there are no minimum standards or procedures in place. As these schools move forward in the process, I believe that it is imperative that this committee address the issue to ensure the protection and safety of our children.

Thank you again for your time and your consideration of this bill.

Vincent Candelora