



**Testimony of
CEA
Before the Education Committee
Submitted by Susan Heller Williams
SB 998 AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE CENTER BUDGETS**

Monday, March 4, 2013

**Connecticut Education
Association**

Governance

Sheila Cohen, President
Jeff Leake, Vice President
Cheryl Prevost, Secretary
Thomas Nicholas, Treasurer
Kathy Flaherty, NEA Director
Pat Jordan NEA Director

Executive Office

Mark Waxenberg
Executive Director

Government Relations

Vincent Loffredo, Director
Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106-8001
860-525-5641, 800-842-4316
Fax: 860-725-6362
www.cea.org

Affiliated with the
National Education Association

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Ackert, members of the Education Committee; Thank you for the opportunity to express CEA's support of SB 998 An Act Concerning Regional Educational Service Center Budgets.

Last year, PA 12-116 An Act Concerning Education Reform required the State Department of Education to develop and implement a uniform system of accounting for school revenues and expenditures. The requirement that all amounts and sources of revenue, including cash and real property donations be reported, includes the Regional Education Service Center.

Passage of SB 998 would strengthen the existing statute adopted last year by requiring the SDE to submit each RESC program budget as a separate line item, and to post the information on its web site. The RESC programs are separate and distinct and should be open for examination as such.

In this environment of shrinking resources, close scrutiny of the distribution and efficacy of dollars spent is even more critical. There is no room for error or concealment. Everything must be on the table and subject to examination. The 2012 General Assembly, in its wisdom, agreed and a good start was enacted.

The CEA urges you to pass SB 998 and thus strengthen the policy unanimously adopted in 2012.