



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony
Submitted to the
Education Committee
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SB 1097 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, members of the Education Committee, I am Robert Rader, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and a member of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC). As you are aware, the Council was established by the General Assembly in 2010 and is responsible for assisting the State Board of Education in the development and implementation of teacher evaluation guidelines.

CABE strongly opposes SB 1097 for two reasons:

- Section 1(b) removes from the board of education final authority for the teacher evaluation system, and places this authority with the professional development and evaluation committee in the district. Members of that committee however, do not have any accountability or responsibility for the school system – that authority rests with board of education and superintendent. The elimination of the reference to evaluation programs being in accordance with guidelines established by the State Board of Education and such other guidelines as the parties may mutually agree to is a significant departure from 30 years of practice.
- Section 1(a) postpones implementation of the new evaluation system for all certified staff until 2014-15. In fact, PEAC reached consensus on a process to provide flexibility to school districts in 2013-14 by creating a bridge year during which districts can choose a number of phase in options. Districts could choose full implementation, or could choose implementation with a portion of their certified staff. The opportunity for this phase in is designed to insure successful implementation in all districts in the 2014-15 school year.

CABE urges you to reject the changes proposed in SB 1097 and allow the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council to continue to address these issues.