



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Veterans' Affairs Committee
Testimony of Commissioner Stefan Pryor
February 25, 2014

Thank you Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino, and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for the opportunity to comment on SB 217, *AAC Excused Absences from School for Children of Service Members*.

We think it is important that this committee is aware of the work the State Department of Education is doing to address the issue of excused and unexcused absences in a variety of situations.

As required by statute, the State Board of Education adopted definitions of excused and unexcused absences. In addition to those definitions, the Department provided official guidance to districts around this issue on May 15, 2013. Information specific to military deployments is included in this document. You will note that on Page 7 of this guidance, a military deployment is specifically listed as an example of an emergency. We certainly believe that such military service merits this recognition. This document also provides best practices and supports for districts and parents around absences. It is available electronically for your review (http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/publications/guidelines_excused_and_unexcused_absences.pdf).

Thank you.