



**Connecticut Association of  
Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Education Committee  
March 12, 2014**

**HB 5078 AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON  
CORE STATE STANDARDS**

**HB 5331 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISIONS TO THE PEAC  
GUIDELINES**

**HB 5521 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE AT  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischman, members of the Education Committee, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) appreciates the opportunity to address these bills.

The Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE) opposes HB 5078, An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Districts have collaborated with teachers, revised curriculum, and have begun the shift in leading students' outlook toward career and college ready. Many districts began this process when the State Board of Education adopted the standards in 2010. To stop this process now will be detrimental to educational improvement, and will be disrespectful of the years of time and resources that have been devoted to implementing CCSS. Like Connecticut's previous standards, the CCSS identify what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, in math and English language arts. However, the CCSS are aligned with college and work expectations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They prepare students to apply knowledge and solve problems – skills essential to success in college and career. The CCSS are standards. It is the curriculum – developed at the local level by the professional staff that determines how the skills and knowledge are taught.

We must also remember that implementation of CCSS is part of a NCLB waiver application. If CCSS is taken out, we may be forced back to NCLB. The result will be more schools found to be underperforming and punitive remedies could result.

The document prepared by the Center for Public Education, which is attached to our testimony, provides a clear view of what the standards are and what they are not.

We would ask that the legislature direct more resources from the Department of Education to those districts that are not as far along in the implementation of these rigorous standards, and to support professional development for educators to help them align their instruction to the new higher standards.

CABE opposes HB 5331, An Act Concerning the Implementation of the Revisions to the PEAC Guidelines. Placing the Performance Evaluation and Advisory Council's work in state statute will not allow for the flexibility to make changes in a timely manner and was the advantage in getting the implementation to run more smoothly for every district before major responsibility overloads could have prevented a successful implementation. This recent unanimous change recommended by PEAC and adopted by the State Board of Education was deliberated over many weeks, with PEAC members gathering input from their members.

PEAC, established by the legislature, should be allowed to continue the work it was charged with. In addition, rather than prohibit expenditures by the State Department of Education to assist school districts in educator evaluation, that support should be increased.

CABE opposes the additional mandates contained in HB 5521, An Act Concerning the Storage and Administration of Epinephrine at Public Schools and Public Institutions of Higher Education. The bill contains the mandate to purchase and the mandate to provide professional development in instructing those who would voluntarily seek to administer.

We appreciate your attention to these issues.