



Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Education Committee

March 11, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee.

We are here today to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions that represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns of Connecticut in support of:

HB 6977 An Act Establishing Qualifications for the Commissioner of Education

As does our affiliate, AFT Connecticut, we also applaud this committee's effort to establish minimum qualifications for the Commissioner of Education in statute.

Last year, the delegates of the Connecticut AFL-CIO 10th Biennial Political Convention passed Resolution 10 (see attached) calling for legislation as being heard today.

High standards have been set for teachers, administrators and superintendents.

We also believe these high standards should be in place as a prerequisite for the Commissioner of Education.

We thank the committee for hearing this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Pelletier

Executive Secretary Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori J. Pelletier

PRESIDENT

Salvatore Luciano

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Melodie M. Peters

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas A. Wilkinson

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

David A. Roche

TRUSTEES

Mark A. Espinosa
Jeffrey H. Matchett
Jean M. Morningstar

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Altieri
Richard Benham
Karen Blanchard
Tammie Botelho

Beverley Brakeman
Wayne Burgess
Michael Calderon
Peter Carozza, Jr.
Peter Carroll
Carol Censki
Frank Cirillo
Everett Corey
Shellye Davis
Kenneth Delacruz
Michael Dennehy
Stephen Ferrucci III

Ronald Frost
Patrick Gaynor
Richard Golembiewski
William Henderson
Juan Hernandez
Keri Hoehne
Thursa Isaac
Clarke King
Charles LeConche
Laila Mandour
Bette Marafino
John McCarthy

Richard McCombs
Stephen McKeever
Ronald McLellan
Craig Metz
Anna Montalvo
Tiana Ocasio
Warren Pepicelli
Michael Petosa
Ronald Petronella
Robert Proto
Peter Reilly
Carmen Reyes

Michael Rosario
Kathleen Santiago
Patrena Smith
Barbara Smyth
Valerie Stewart
James Wallace, Jr.
Paul Wallace

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

John W. Olsen



RESOLUTION 10

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, anyone seeking employment as a teacher in the State of Connecticut must hold a valid certificate issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education;

WHEREAS, Section 10-145b of the Connecticut General Statutes outlines the requirements for educators to progress from initial educator to professional educator, which includes minimum years of actual classroom experience;

WHEREAS, individuals seeking an 092 endorsement in administration must complete a minimum of 50 months of teaching experience and 18 graduate semester hours beyond a Master's degree;

WHEREAS, individuals seeking an 093 endorsement for superintendent, must complete 80 months of teaching experience, including 30 months of full-time administrative or supervisory experience and 30 graduate hours beyond the Master's degree;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education, with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, develops, directs and implements education policy and public school instruction in Connecticut;

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori J. Pelletier

PRESIDENT

Salvatore Luciano

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Melodie M. Peters

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas A. Wilkinson

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

David A. Roche

TRUSTEES

Mark A. Espinosa
Jeffrey H. Matchett
Jean M. Morningstar

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Altieri
Richard Benham
Karen Blanchard
Tammie Botelho

Beverley Brakeman
Wayne Burgess
Michael Calderon
Peter Carozza, Jr.
Peter Carroll
Carol Censki
Frank Cirillo
Everett Corey
Shellye Davis
Kenneth DeLaCruz
Michael Dennehy
Stephen Ferrucci III

Ronald Frost
Patrick Gaynor
Richard Golembiewski
William Henderson
Juan Hernandez
Keri Hoehne
Thursa Isaac
Clarke King
Charles LeConche
Laila Mandour
Bette Marafino
John McCarthy

Richard McCombs
Stephen McKeever
Ronald McLellan
Craig Metz
Anna Montalvo
Tiana Ocasio
Warren Pepicelli
Michael Petosa
Ronald Petronella
Robert Proto
Peter Reilly
Carmen Reyes

Michael Rosario
Kathleen Santiago
Patrena Smith
Barbara Smyth
Valerie Stewart
James Wallace, Jr.
Paul Wallace

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

John W. Olsen



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

56 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Tel: 860-571-6191

Fax: 860-571-6190

WHEREAS, qualified, certified educators deliver the highest quality instruction and have the greatest impact on student learning;

WHEREAS, all educators in the state are under increased scrutiny and accountability from legislators, boards of education, the media and the general public;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Connecticut AFL-CIO will advocate for policy and/or legislation that mandates minimum educational and classroom experience for the State Commissioner of Education to include at least the same requirements as any individual serving as a superintendent in Connecticut must have: an 093 endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori J. Pelletier

PRESIDENT

Salvatore Luciano

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Melodie M. Peters

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas A. Wilkinson

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

David A. Roche

TRUSTEES

Mark A. Espinosa
Jeffrey H. Matchett
Jean M. Morningstar

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Altieri
Richard Benham
Karen Blanchard
Tammie Botelho

Beverley Brakeman
Wayne Burgess
Michael Calderon
Peter Carozza, Jr.
Peter Carroll
Carol Censki
Frank Cirillo
Everett Corey
Shellye Davis
Kenneth DeLaCruz
Michael Dennehy
Stephen Ferrucci III

Ronald Frost
Patrick Gaynor
Richard Golembiewski
William Henderson
Juan Hernandez
Keri Hoehne
Thursa Isaac
Clarke King
Charles LeConche
Laila Mandour
Bette Marafino
John McCarthy

Richard McCombs
Stephen McKeever
Ronald McLellan
Craig Metz
Anna Montalvo
Tiana Ocasio
Warren Pepicelli
Michael Petosa
Ronald Petronella
Robert Proto
Peter Reilly
Carmen Reyes

Michael Rosario
Kathleen Santiago
Patrena Smith
Barbara Smyth
Valerie Stewart
James Wallace, Jr.
Paul Wallace

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

John W. Olsen