



**TESTIMONY of the CT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
Before the Planning and Development Committee**

IN SUPPORT OF:

**HB 5096, An Act Requiring a Two Thirds Majority in the Legislature for the Passage of Unfunded
Mandates**

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) supports HB 5096, An Act Requiring a Two Thirds Majority in the Legislature for the Passage of Unfunded Mandates.

School districts have been challenged for some time now with not having sufficient funds to meet the needs of all of the students whom the districts are obligated to serve. One of the contributing factors to this situation has been the fact that for five years in a row, there was no increase in the Education Cost Sharing Program (ECS), the major state funding program for public education. Even over the past two years when state funding for education did increase, most districts did not benefit sufficiently from this increase to offset the negative consequences of five years of flat state funding.

Yet, there have been over the past three years, new state mandates in the areas of educator evaluation, higher learning standards for students and other areas which mandates have required additional expenditures at the local level. This has continued a pattern of increased mandates that require funding and the absence of state funding to pay for these mandates. This pattern has to be reversed.

CAPSS, therefore, urges the passage of HB 5096.

I strongly support the House bill raising the threshold for enactment of unfunded state mandates on municipalities.

In order for Connecticut's many economic difficulties (high taxes, loss of jobs, exodus of productive residents to other states, etc.) to be brought under control, greater fiscal discipline in the General Assembly and the Governor's Office is necessary. No legislation should be enacted unless it contains measures for covering its cost of implementation out of current state revenues (i.e not higher taxes or borrowing). If the funds to pay for it are not available and provided to the affected municipalities, it should not be enacted.

Respectively submitted,

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