



**TESTIMONY of the CT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SUPERINTENDENTS  
BEFORE THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**IN REFERENCE  
TO:**

**S.B. No. 944, An Act Establishing a Full-Day Kindergarten Requirement**

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) which represents the Superintendents of CT's Public Schools and over a hundred other school district central office administrators is opposed to S.B. No. 944.

While CAPSS fully supports the implementation of full-day kindergarten programs, the organization is also cognizant of what it costs to do so. Over the past few years, a substantial majority of CT's school districts have met the challenge of implementing these programs. They were able to do this because in each of the communities served by the districts, there was a consensus reached that full-day kindergarten programs are worth the financial investment required.

Discussions regarding full-day kindergarten programs are taking place in the districts that presently do not have these programs. These are healthy discussions because they are focused on allocating resources in ways that best benefit the children who live in the communities.

Imposing an unfunded state mandate regarding full-day kindergarten programs would put an end to these healthy discussions and the subsequent focus would be on what other educational programs would have to be reduced and/or eliminated to pay for full-day kindergarten. The end result for the children in these communities would be a diminished instead of an enhanced educational program.

Based on these considerations, CAPSS looks forward to working with members of the Legislature and with the Gov.'s office in the effort to provide universal full-day kindergarten programs in a way that does not involve an unfunded state mandate and that aligns with instead of being a hindrance to community conversations in this regard.