



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Planning and Development Committee  
February 4, 2015**

**HB 5085 AN ACT AUTHORIZING OVERSIGHT OVER NONEDUCATIONAL EXPENSES IN  
SCHOOL BUDGETS BY MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF FINANCE**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education is opposed to HB 5085, An Act Authorizing Oversight over Non-educational Expenses in School Budgets by Municipal Boards of Finance. We are deeply concerned that this bill will exacerbate tension between boards of education and local boards of finance. Based on a search, no definition of “non-educational” expenses appears in the Connecticut General Statutes. The statutes clearly provide that boards of education have the responsibility for the implementation of the educational interests of the state. Those duties, pursuant to Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes, include “provide an appropriate learning environment for its students which includes (1) adequate instructional books, supplies, materials, equipment, staffing, facilities and technology, (2) equitable allocation of resources among its schools, (3) proper maintenance of facilities, and (4) a safe school setting.” In order to meet these statutory responsibilities, boards of education must have the ability to allocate the resources necessary to provide all of these functions. Since board of education members are held personally responsible if they knowingly over expend their total appropriation, they have the additional duty to reallocate funds among various accounts as unanticipated expenditures occur, such as in special education.

This bill would significantly impede the ability of boards of education to fulfil their statutory responsibilities to the students of their district. We urge you to reject HB 5085.

We appreciate your attention to this issue.