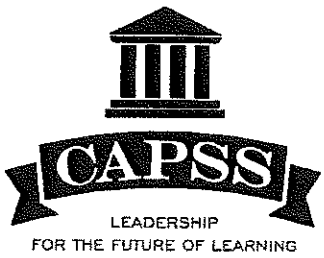

TESTIMONY of the CT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
Before the Public Health Committee

REGARDING:

SB 768 Legislation in Response to the Recommendations of the School Nurse Advisory Council

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) supports the recommendations of the School Nurse Advisory Council with the exception of the recommendation to mandate a specific nurse to student staffing ratio. The reasons for the opposition to this recommendation are the following.

- Each school has a student body with unique characteristics and those characteristics vary from year to year. In some schools during some school years, there are enough students with particular medical needs to warrant a full time nurse even if the student body is relatively small. In other schools during some school years, there are so few students with particular medical needs that a full time nurse is not needed even if the student body is relatively large. In other words, the need for school nurses is more dependent on the children served by a school as opposed to how many students are served by the school. Mandating a specific staffing ratio is inconsistent with this fact.

- There are school districts in CT for which the recommended staffing ratio would be clearly another unfunded state mandate. As the State of CT and, therefore, every school district in CT faces very tight fiscal conditions over at least the next two years, forcing another unfunded mandate on school districts will place them in a position where in order to meet the mandate, the districts will have to reduce or curtail other services that have a higher priority when it comes to the welfare of the students.

The imposition of a statewide student/nursing standard, therefore, would unnecessarily restrict school districts as they work to make sure that students who need health attention when they are involved in school activities.

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