



Testimony of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents

IN OPPOSITION TO: HB 5175

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) **opposes** House Bill #5175 for the following reasons.

- The bill would require a second audit of board of education financial transactions when those transactions are already adequately audited. This would require an unnecessary expense of money and time.
- The bill would allow municipal financial agencies to control “non-educational” expenses. Every item in a board of education budgets is in one way or the other related to the educational mission of school systems. In addition, local boards of education need to have control over all items in their budgets because only then, can they make the priority decisions each year that best allow the boards to meet their obligation to educate all the children who are served by their school system.
- The bill is a side door attempt to wrest control of board of education budgets from boards of education. Boards of education are established by the State of CT and charged with educating the children in the school systems of the state. To meet this charge, local boards need to retain control over how to spend the money that is allocated to them. If they do not retain this control, they will be held accountable for education results without having the authority over the factors that control those results.

CAPSS, therefore, urges the Legislature not to enact HB 5175.