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41 years

*-serving the interests of
Connecticut school
administrators*

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Testimony before Education Committee
HB 5469 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT DATA PRIVACY
HB 5470 AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR
STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL INTERESTED
IN PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN EDUCATION
SB 323 AN ACT CONCERNING UNSUBSTANTIATED
ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT BY SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES

Testimony by Dr. Anne Jellison, Chair, Board of Directors
Connecticut Association of School Administrators
Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Good afternoon, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Lavielle and distinguished members of the Education Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

I am Dr. Anne Jellison, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Association of School Administrators (CASA). The overall purpose of CASA is to recognize, build respect for, and enhance the dignity of each and every school administrator in the state. Our efforts are focused on protecting and preserving the status and welfare of our members. We represent nearly 1000 school administrators, below the rank of assistant superintendent, in elementary, middle, and secondary schools or working in their board's central office.

CASA would like to take a moment to commend the legislature for their shared vision in passing legislative laws that promote the wellness of school administrators who play a vital role in our children's education. CASA offers its comments on the following bills:

HB 5469 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

CASA is a member of the Connecticut Alliance for Privacy in Education (CAPE) and supports their goals for student privacy. Of particular interest to school administrators are CAPE's concerns surrounding vendors and third party contractors who have access to educational records without restriction or regulation. In addition, we agree that supervision of student data collection by public entities should be strengthened to ensure student data privacy is protected.

With the disturbing trend towards increased standardized testing of our students and the greater use of technology for teacher evaluations, it is more important than ever that state law establish safeguards to protect students and school personnel from data mining and inappropriate sharing of school records.

HB 5470 AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL INTERESTED IN PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN EDUCATION

School administrators support incentives and initiatives designed to encourage and recruit minority students to pursue a career in education. This is particularly important in urban areas where the achievement gap is greatest and opportunities for students to find a career path are low. Increasing the pool of minority teachers requires a long-term commitment and multi-faceted approach and this proposal will help lay the groundwork for a more diversified education workforce.

SB 323 AN ACT CONCERNING UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

We are all familiar with the scenario of an individual who is falsely accused of misconduct but later cleared of any wrongdoing. Unfortunately, the original accusations can frequently follow that individual professionally for years to come. This can be especially true in education settings when such accusations can become part of the “rumor mill” in a school or community. The Connecticut Association of School Administrators (CASA) believes that no school employee should be penalized for unsubstantiated or unproven allegations and supports the underlying concept of this bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Jellison, Ph.D.

CASA Chair