



Testimony of

Connecticut Education Association

Before the Education Committee

Connecticut Education Association

Governance

Sheila Cohen, President
Jeff Leake, Vice President
Pat Jordan, Secretary
Thomas Nicholas, Treasurer
John Horrigan, NEA Director
Gary Peluchette, NEA Director

Executive Office

Mark Waxenberg
Executive Director
Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-525-5641 800-842-4316
Fax 860-725-6388

An affiliate of the
National Education Association

HB 5470 AAC A PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL INTERESTED IN PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN EDUCATION

SB 317 AAC DYSLEXIA

HB 5465 AA AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DUAL LANGUAGE MAGNET SCHOOL AND A STEM MAGNET SCHOOL

HB 5470 AAC A PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL INTERESTED IN PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN EDUCATION

March 2, 2016

The Connecticut Education Association supports Raised Bill 5470.

HB5470 would establish a pilot program to recruit promising minority high school students for a future in teaching.

As drafted, the pilot program proposed in the bill would operate in New Haven, New Britain, and Windham – school districts not represented by CEA local affiliates. CEA believes that while the selection of these school districts is a good start, including students from Bridgeport, Danbury, New London, Waterbury, or Stamford would further expand the pilot's reach and also enable CEA to support the program's work.

Recruiting high school students into teaching is an idea that CEA has proposed in the past and continues to support. HB5470 can help ensure that public schools will be able to recruit high-achieving candidates who exhibit broad cultural awareness and great potential to improve student learning. It is CEA's hope that this pilot program not only thrives, but expands to include all four state universities and more school districts.

We also urge lawmakers to consider how the pilot program could benefit from the lessons learned from similar programs that have been carried out by the Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs). Connecticut RESCs initiated a Summer Institute for Future Teachers held at Eastern Connecticut State University and a mid-state Pathways to Teaching minority teacher recruitment initiative. Incorporating the lessons that were learned from such promising programs could help lawmakers better promote more a diverse pool of high-quality teacher candidates.

SB 317 AAC DYSLEXIA

CEA supports SB317 AAC Dyslexia with an important consideration.

CEA supports requiring graduates of teacher preparation courses to have received training in the detection of dyslexia and strategies for helping students overcome the challenges dyslexia poses. However, CEA advises against changing graduation requirements for college students who are currently enrolled in teacher education programs. Such changes can result in additional student debt and delaying the graduation of new teachers at a time when school districts across the state continue to confront teacher shortages.

Consequently, CEA advises the committee to revise the effective date of the new requirement to apply to incoming freshmen, for certifications on or after July 1, 2020.

HB 5465 AA AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DUAL LANGUAGE MAGNET SCHOOL AND A STEM MAGNET SCHOOL.

CEA supports HB5465 An Act Authorizing the Establishment of a Dual Language Magnet School and a Stem Magnet School.

Connecticut has a rich level of diversity. The promotion of dual language schools in HB5465 recognizes this diversity and that the strengths of students in one school district may be different from those in another. Furthermore, if the programs proposed in this bill are implemented, CEA believes that they should be closely observed for potential applicability to other suitable districts in the state.

CEA urges the committee to support this bill.