



State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

860-240-8555

Senator Slosberg, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Lavielle, Senator Winfield and Representative Sanchez and other distinguished members of the Education committee. My name is Subira Gordon and I am the legislative analyst for the African American Affairs Commission. The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

I am providing testimony in support of RB 5470 AAC A PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL INTERESTED IN PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN EDUCATION.

First I would like to thank the committee for their continued support to help getting more minority teachers into the class room. All students benefit from have teachers of color regardless of race or ethnicity. During the interim the minority teacher recruitment taskforce met and there were several presentations that outlined why it was difficult to recruit and retain teachers of color in Connecticut. The idea of home grown teachers who already have deep roots in the community was one that was brought up many times and this bill would help to create a pipe line of teachers who are from communities that already have a high percentage of minority residents.

This bill creates a pilot program in communities where teacher prep programs already exist and would work with high school students who are interested in the field. There are many programs across the country that creates a pipeline for teachers through a teacher cadet

program. Originating in South Carolina other states have followed this model and it has been successful in helping in teacher shortage areas. There is a similar program in Hawaii which has seen great results and the Colorado legislature is currently considering a bill that is trying to address teacher shortages in the rural areas of the state.

I urge the committee to support this bill and again I thank you for your commitment to this important issue.

Subira Gordon

Legislative Analyst

African American Affairs Commission