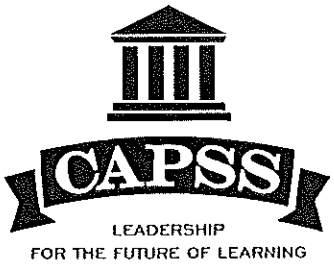

Testimony of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents

REQUESTING A REVISION TO: RAISED BILL #175

An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Department of Education.

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) **supports** Raised Bill #175 with one exception.

The exception is found on page nine of the bill and limits the amount of Alliance District Grants that Alliance Districts can carry over from one fiscal year to the next to 3%. CAPSS urges the Legislature to strike this portion of the Bill for the following reasons.

- Limiting the carry over percentage will compel Alliance Districts:
    - To spend at least 97% of their grants in a given fiscal year when it would be more in line with the goal of improving student achievement to reserve an amount greater than 3% for the next fiscal year. In other words, the Bill could result in grant funds not being put to the best use.
    - To forgo a significant amount of the flexibility that carry over funds provide and that Districts need if they are to get the best results for the grant funds expended.
- In many cases, a carryover of more than 3% is needed to fund summer school programs. Frequently, the grant funds for a given fiscal year

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are released too late in the summer for them to be counted on to fund summer school programs.

It should be noted that the State Department of Education has to approve the use of even $1.00 of carry over Alliance District Grant Money and that the federal government allows a carryover of more than 3% in Title One Funds.

For these reasons, CAPSS urges the Legislature to strike this provision of Raised Bill #175

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