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Testimony before Education Committee

SB 380 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE RESULTS ON THE MASTERY EXAMINATION FROM TEACHER EVALUATIONS.

Testimony by Dr. Anne Jellison, Chair, Board of Directors Connecticut Association of School Administrators

Monday, March 7, 2016

Good morning, 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.

The Connecticut Association of School Administrators (CASA) would like to begin by thanking this Committee for its leadership last year in eliminating the SBAC test for high school juniors. This sensible first step has improved morale for students, teachers and administrators in schools districts throughout Connecticut.

Senate Bill 380, we believe, will head our state in the right direction in disassociating student mastery test scores from evaluating educators. This linkage approach, while heralded by the "school reform movement" is out of touch with the real world of what is happening in classrooms every day. The over reliance on test scores and data has trivialized learning and hurt morale among teachers and administrators. Ultimately it is the student who suffers -- pressure to "teach to the test" and to increase test scores in many cases is the top priority -- especially if teachers and administrators believe their competence will be evaluated based on these test scores.

We urge support of this legislation and any future efforts to separate test scores from the professional evaluations of teachers and administrators.

Sincerely,

Anne Jellison, Ph.D.
CASA Chair