STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Connecticut General Assembly
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Testimony of Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell
February 22, 2016

Senator Casano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I am pleased to have an opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee today regarding Governor's Bill 16, An Act Increasing Agency Efficiency In The Regulation Process.

During a time when our state is facing a new economic reality and agency heads across Connecticut are having to streamline operations and learn to do more with less, it makes a great deal of sense to incorporate those strategies into the regulations making process, which is both extensive and very demanding on agency time and resources in comparison to processes existing in other states.

By allowing agency heads to use their discretion when determining if regulations are truly needed to carryout statutory provisions, it will free up agency resources, reduce the chance of promulgating a regulation that is inconsistent with state statute, and reduce possible confusion for the regulated community. Furthermore, by allowing technical amendments and repeals to occur without having to go through a public hearing or public comment phase, minor changes to regulations could be made more swiftly, and again, more efficiently, in an effort to bring regulations in line with statutes. Most importantly, this provision will greatly improve our customer service to our constituents and our ability to implement the legislature's policy priorities in a timely manner.

This bill seems like a logical and common sense measure. I fully support the Governor's proposal and would urge favorable action by the Committee.

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