



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, INC.

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Testimony and Concern for:

Raised Bill No. 5400 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN EDUCATION PERSONNEL RECORDS

My name is Fred Balsamo. I am Wallingford resident and I am the executive director of Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, which represents the athletic directors in 188 high school and 150 middle school athletic programs across the state.

While it would very difficult to dispute most of this bill there is one change of eliminating the thirty day background check period that will literally handcuff the hiring practices in our schools. Very often schools have to hire someone at the last minute and having them fill out an application testifying they have no criminal background and then conducting a thorough check of their references, allows us to start that person pending the final results of the national background check. Eliminating that ability would cause a considerable hardship to every school district in the state. Specifically as this relates to athletics and the hiring of coaches, many districts cannot find qualified coaches to cover their programs. It is common practice for a school to find out they have a vacancy at the last minute. They need the ability to find someone interested and have them go through the many state requirements for obtaining a permit and to then allow them to start coaching pending the final background check so that the children are allow to begin their program on time. I was an athletic director for 33 years and had to find someone at the last minute several times a year and I NEVER had to dismiss someone because their background check came back dirty.

I urge the committee to leave that wording as is.

Sincerely,

Fred Balsamo

Fred Balsamo, CMAA