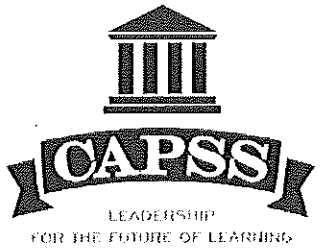


**Testimony of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents**

**IN OPPOSITION TO: HB 5462 An Act Requiring the Installation of Seat Belts on School Buses**

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) **opposes** House Bill #5462 for the following reasons.

- Because local school systems would have to pay for the installation of the seat belts, the bill would impose one more unfunded mandate upon school systems. Such mandates are difficult to justify at any time and they are impossible to justify when state financial support for local systems is being reduced.

- The experience that has ensued when districts have installed seat belts on school buses has been mixed at best. On the negative side, these districts have found the following.

    - Unless there are monitors on every school bus, many children do not use the seat belts.
    - Some students find it entertaining to link the seat belts across the bus aisles creating a hazard for other students. This too can be prevented only when there are monitors on the buses.

Enactment of this bill would in effect impose a double unfunded mandate upon local districts: the cost of installing seat belts and the