

Good evening Representative Sanchez, Senator McCrory distinguished members of the Education Committee. My name is Matthew Conway, and I am here today as the Superintendent of Derby Public Schools and Co-Chair of the CAPSS Legislative Committee to speak IN OPPOSITION TO:

### **SB 457 An Act Concerning The Size Of School Districts.**

Successful companies are not based on the size of an organization, but on the quality of the people who are leading the charge and on the ground every minute of every day with their hearts, minds and sweat to make it happen and make it happen right.

In the business world, investors do not get behind an idea because of the number of people in the company. They invest in the human capital who are bringing the idea to the table. The mindset and practices of our government should be no different. Government like business, should utilize smart investment practices when it comes to distributing funding. Measures should be based on solid business practices instead of utilizing a criterion that bears little evidence of determining a return on the investment. The criteria of 2000 or less students is an example of this.

This is an arbitrary number that offers no statistical data to support that districts larger than 2000 offer any financial efficiencies with regard to operation and even more important a return on the investment of the education of those most impacted, our kids. I would argue that this criteria will actually have a negative economic impact on Connecticut's economy.

According to [National Student Clearing House \(NSC\)](#), today in CT, of the 69.01% of our graduating seniors enrolling in college only 49% of these students graduate in 6 years. This number changes drastically in economically distressed municipalities with only 48% percent enrolling after high school and only 18% graduating in 6 years. This is further concerning when only 6% are finishing in 6 years from our 2-year institutions. We also know that 76% of those enrolling in college from distressed municipalities are enrolling in in-state public institutions with 46.35% in 2-year public institutions.

According to the report [Trends in Enrollment, Credit Attainment, and Remediation at Connecticut Public Universities and Community Colleges](#), forty-six percent (46%) of all CT students enrolled in college after high school graduation are enrolled in remedial courses. That percent jumps to sixty-seven percent (67%) for students from economically distressed municipalities.

The data tells, us of those students from economically distressed municipalities, the larger the district the lower the number of students returning after their first year, the lower the number graduating in 6 years from two year of 4 year colleges and the higher the enrollment in remedial courses. This data holds true when you compare districts like Derby, Ansonia, East Hartford,

Meriden. Waterbury, Hartford Bridgeport. The larger the district the more concerning the outcome.

By forcing districts to regionalize without first considering the outcomes would be contrary to good business practices and you may not achieve the intended results and or savings when you look beyond the salary of a single position.

There are many, higher ticket items that will yield much greater savings while increasing student success than what is proposed in this legislation.

Thank you for your time and more important, for your commitment to our kids and this state. If we get around a table we can and will open each others minds to the different ways we can achieve both savings and increase students success during and beyond our Prek-12 system.