



**Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Education Committee  
March 6, 2019**

**SB 957 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS OF TEACHER PREPARATION AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS.**

**HB 7082 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICANAMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

**HB 7083 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICAN AND LATINO STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

**HB 7250 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY.**

**HB 7258 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM GRADUATION DATE AND THE DATE FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SESSIONS.**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports HB 7258, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Firm Graduation Date and the Date for the First Day of School Sessions. CABE recognizes the planning that goes into the culmination of a student's educational career. The securing of a location for the graduation ceremony, the securing a location and planning a safe graduation party, and the consideration of family traveling from afar; CABE understands there are many logistical hurdles to make this milestone occasion a success.

CABE opposes the specific time setting of HB 7250, An Act Concerning the Improvement of Child Development through Play. The State Board of Education approved social and emotional guidelines for PK-3 early in 2018 that have been aligned with *Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards*. The Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, which was selected to participate in the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning's (CASEL) Collaborating States Initiative, has agreed to partner with the Department to support statewide dissemination of the *Components of Social, Emotional and Intellectual Habits: Kindergarten through Grade 3*. In a meeting last fall of the Commission's Social and Emotional Learning Working Group, Dr. Linda Dusenbury spoke about the ability to imbed social and emotional learning into the curriculum.

CABE opposes the specific mandates of SB 957, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Computer Science Instruction in the Public School Curriculum, Programs of Teacher Preparation and In-Service Training Programs for Teachers, HB 7082, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of African American Studies in the Public School Curriculum and HB 7083, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies in the Public School Curriculum. While recognizing the importance of these issues, CABE urges you to refrain from the addition of a specific item to the existing curriculum mandates. Resources are available from the State Department of Education to enable districts to incorporate these topics into the curriculum, and a specific mandate is unnecessary.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.