



Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

www.ctahperd.org

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2020 – 2021

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Education Committee

Public Hearing – March 17, 2021

HB 6617 AAC Authorization Of State Grant Commitments For School Building Projects And Revisions To The School Building Projects Statutes -Section 2, Subsection 6

Lisa Galske – CT Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

My name is Lisa Galske, and I am the Executive Director for the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CTAHPERD). On behalf of CTAHPERD, I would like to thank the leadership and members of the Education Committee for providing me with the opportunity to express my support for House Bill 6617 which in Section 2, subsection 6, will require that any newly constructed public school, or a public school undergoing major renovations, include water bottle filling stations.

I am submitting this written testament in full support of this proposed bill. I would also like to request that language be added to this section to strengthen the bill. In Section 2, subsection 6, of this bill contains language that would require any newly constructed public school, or any public school undergoing major renovations, include water bottle filling stations in their plans. While I am in strong support of this language, I respectfully request that it be amended to include language that will ensure that there are minimal standards to follow with regards to the placement of these stations. **It needs to be stated that there should be “at least one water bottle filling station per 100 students; at least one water bottle filling station on each floor or wing of the building; and at least one water bottle filling station in all food service areas.”** I feel that with the requested amended language that this will be a much stronger bill for which we are in full support.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many schools to close traditional water fountains. Full access to water in our schools is essential for all students, including those who need to hydrate after physical education classes.

Our organization deems this action imperative to the health and well being of all of our students for the following reasons:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now encourages staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of traditional water fountains.

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State Affiliate of SHAPE America – Society of Health and Physical Educators