



Education Committee Public Hearing

March 17, 2021

HB 6617 – An Act Concerning the Regionalization of Certain Public Safety Emergency Telecommunications Centers and a Study of Consolidation.

Good Morning Chairman McCrory, Chairwoman Sanchez and Members of the Education Committee. My name is Zak Leavy and I am a legislative and political coordinator for AFSCME Council 4. We represent 30,000 public and private sector employees including workers in school districts across Connecticut. We are submitting testimony on HB 6617, in Act Concerning Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Revisions to the School Building Projects Statutes. We are supporting Section 2, Subsection 6, which would require any newly constructed public school, or a public-school undergoing renovations, include water bottle filling stations.

Water bottle filling stations can help reduce the spread of germs and disease by allowing students and staff to refill their own personal reusable water bottle. This will help slow down any spread of illness that can happen in schools due to use of the water fountain spigot. Council 4 respectfully requests an amendment in section 2, subsection 6, to strengthen the bill even further. We ask that this section be amended to include 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.

Thank you very much and we urge the committee to support the amendment and the underlying bill.