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Testimony Filed with the Education Committee
HB 6618 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN FUNDING ISSUES AFFECTING BOARDS OF EDUCATION
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We appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of HB 6618.

Section 1 provides important flexibility for Alliance Districts on how they use and spend their funds. The ability to adjust plans and respond to new challenges remains a critical component for operating such schools. These proposed statutory changes will clearly assist with these efforts.

Section 2 allows for unexpended federal funds supporting COVID-19 relief efforts to be carried forward into the next fiscal year. This needed flexibility is important to plan and execute spending plans for these special challenges that could go beyond a fiscal year, including but not limited to, supply chain interruptions, facility upgrades, and other operational restrictions.

Section 3 makes a critical revision to Section 10-51d (2) to allow regional school districts to deposit up to 2% of the annual district budget into a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures. This change for regional school districts was inadvertently overlooked by the legislature in 2019 when it increased the deposit amount to 2% for local board boards of education. Attempts were made last year to make this change for regional school districts but unfortunately COVID interrupted the process. We ask that the legislature correct this situation this session.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

About us: The Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) is a non-profit professional association that represents school business officials throughout the State of Connecticut. School business officials work closely with school boards, school superintendents, administrators, staff, public officials and communities; and we are responsible for most aspects of school business and operations. This includes, but is not limited to, overseeing food service programs.