



DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

35 Fifth Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418

(203) 736-5027 • fax (203) 736-5031 • www.derbyps.org

Dr. Matthew Conway, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Representative Sanchez, Senator McCrory, Ranking Members Representative McCarty, Senator Berthel and dedicated and passionate members of the Education Committee. My name is Matt Conway, and I am here today as the Superintendent of Derby Public Schools and Co-Chair of the CAPSS Legislative Committee to testify on education-related proposals on your agenda.

HB 6618 An Act Concerning Certain Funding Issues Affecting Boards Of Education. CAPSS supports Section 3 to allow regional boards of education to increase from one percent to two percent into the aggregate amount of annual and supplemental appropriations to their reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. This change reflects the changes made in Public Act 117 for all non regional boards of education.

HB 1034 An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment And Retention. We support HB 1034 AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION with exceptions to the funding source outlined in section 2(c)(2) of the bill which takes ten percent “of any increase in such funds that the alliance district receives over the amount that it received for the fiscal year ending” away from our most disadvantaged kids. We would instead like to work with the legislature in funding [section 10 of the Blueprint to Transform Connecticut Schools](#) which provides a long term sustainable approach to supporting recruitment and retention of minority teachers. CAPSS believes funding this recruitment and training by taking funds away from our districts who serve our most disadvantaged student populations is counter to the overall intent of the program.

HB 6620 An Act Concerning The Right To Read And Addressing Opportunity Gaps And Equity In Public Schools. While I support the intentions of HB 6620 to provide model curriculum and assessment support to districts, I would like to suggest changes to the language to accomplish the intent of the bill without mandating districts use a prescribed model curriculum or assessment and places oversight of the program within the State Department of Education or our RESCs.

HB 6620 creates a “literacy center” independent of the State Department of Education to develop and maintain the very academic support the state Department of Education is

responsible to do. As an Alliance District who has worked with and used the current reading programs and assessments supported by the state department of education, the department has provided significant support and resources for the programs they are equipped to support. I would like to recommend we continue to support and expand the work we and the state department of education has started. Lets learn from the work we have been doing, continue to research other approaches and provide all districts with choice to do the same. I believe providing the State Department of Education and our RESCs with the resources to recruit and maintain experts in the field of literacy to support districts will yield a more sustainable and supportive approach to staff and to increasing literacy and learning for all kids.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call. 203-751-2249 or email me at mconway@derbyps.org