

STEVEN J. ADAMOWSKI
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Testimony of: Natasha L. Durrant
Regarding State Department of Education Proposal of Regulations

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OPENING CHOICE: Honorable Chairmen and Members of the Committee

TEXT OF TESTIMONY / STATEMENT OF POSITION:

My name is Natasha L. Durrant. I currently serve as the Staffing Manager of Human Resources for the Hartford Public Schools and have worked in the department of Human Resources for the past twelve years.

The Hartford Public Schools supports any flexibility and streamlined requirements that the State Board of Education proposes to attract experienced educators to Urban School Systems. In particular, we support *Flexibility Options* in which quality candidates have options to complete deficiencies while temporary certification is in place, and the change to encompass 6-12 grades within the secondary level endorsements will provide our growing Pre-K – 12 and 6-12 programs with better flexibility to move staff and students into departmental teams to foster growth in academic achievement.

We do not support anything that limits our ability to hire experienced out of state teachers that do not initially meet CT State Certification Standards. Those of us responsible for filling positions in an urban district desire less restrictive certification requirements to avoid unnecessary obstacles to attracting teachers who will thrive in our challenging environment. In addition, our district transition to distinctive schools of choice begins with small academies which find the minor assignment exception essential to providing flexibility in course offerings for students. These Academies open with limited funding but particular courses are critical components to the theme of these schools. Additionally, in our efforts to recruit potential administrators, we first seek out teacher leaders. However, the new endorsement requirements would limit our ability to identify those who have natural leadership abilities and are successful in our district.

ENDING:

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me to provide testimony in regards to the proposed certification before you today and would be happy to make myself available, should you have any questions.