



State of Connecticut

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Senate Bill Number 452 Education Committee March 14, 2018

Chairs Fleischmann, Slossberg and Boucher, Ranking Member Lavielle, and Members of the Education and Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on **Senate Bill Number 452: An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Holocaust and Genocide Education and Awareness in the Social Studies Curriculum.**

This bill seeks to include Holocaust and genocide education awareness in the social studies curriculum within public schools in our state. In order to do so, this legislation will also allow school districts to avail themselves of existing and appropriate materials and resources, as well as accept gifts, grants and donations, designed for the development and implementation of Holocaust and genocide education and awareness.

Providing our students with a comprehensive education must include teachings related to the Holocaust and genocide education and awareness- subject matter that is extremely sensitive, and troubling, in hopes that history may never repeat itself.

I am, however, concerned with the unfunded education mandate that this creates for our towns and municipalities. This session I submitted a bill proposal request to this Committee, asking for consideration in raising a bill that would expand the existing required social studies program of instruction for public schools to include teaching our students about the Holocaust and genocide awareness. I respectfully encourage the Committee consider adopting the language to reflect this.

I urge the Education Committee to pass Senate Bill Number 452 with my suggested edits in order to avoid an unfunded mandate. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to pass legislation to provide students with important educational opportunities, and to give towns the independence and flexibility in order to do so.

