



Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents

**Testimony on S.B. No. 452 (RAISED) EDUCATION
AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM**

Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, Representative Fleischmann, Representative LaVielle and Members of the Education Committee:

The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, of course, believes that the Holocaust and Genocide Education must be included in the curricula of every school; however, we oppose this mandate to include the holocaust and genocide education awareness in the social studies curriculum.

A recent survey of superintendents undertaken by CAPSS indicates that in school districts, the topic of the holocaust and genocide education is already included in the curricula of our schools.

These topics are included as early as grade two in some districts and are certainly an integral part of the social studies curriculum in middle school and high school.

This topic should not be in social studies alone. It has great relevance in English classes as well through the study of fiction and non-fiction writings which were written during and about this horrendous period in our history.

This topic is also relevant in the study of art and music depicting this event in history. This topic is indeed integrated into the curricula of Connecticut schools. CAPSS is concerned that this mandate may be confining. It may mandate teaching the Holocaust within a certain course and within a particular grade.

We believe that districts have embraced and prioritized this topic and it permeates the curricula across not only social studies but English, Art, and Music as well. Students better internalize content that is integrated across many curriculum areas and, right now, that is occurring in our schools.

Respectfully submitted:
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