



**Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
submitted to the  
Public Health Committee**

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**SB 1 AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND  
PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC.**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education strongly supports efforts to insure that students have the school and community support necessary to help them deal with their social and emotional needs, particularly as those needs have been exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. We are concerned however, that a provision of SB 1 as currently drafted, would not be practical to implement. Section 1 proposes to require that boards of education conduct an exit interview with students who withdrawal from school prior to graduation. Some students may be unavailable or unwilling to participate in such an interview. It would be more valuable to insure that school districts have resources available to identify students in need of support – and to make sure that the supports are available.

CABE has long standing positions urging the state, local and federal government to support interagency partnerships to connect children and families with comprehensive services including counseling and mental health. CABE supports greater and sustained resources that expand access to mental health services and supports comprehensive wraparound services for schools that include a range of community resources to address safety and intervention. It is also imperative that professional development be made available to teachers to enhance their ability to support students who have experienced trauma.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.