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**Testimony Filed with the Appropriations Committee For  
HB 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING  
JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.**

**March 9, 2021**

**SB 6439.** We are concerned with the proposed two-year delay in the ECS phase-in formula and that the reduction of ECS funds caused by this delay will be “back filled” by ESSER II funds. This approach delays the needed and expected adjustments to ECS and allocates ESSER II funds distributed for COVID relief to partially augment ECS. The ESSER II funds have very specific spending guidelines and do not support the overall education costs covered by ECS. Also, this approach creates a funding shortfall in the year following this biennial when the federal funds are no longer available.

We are also concerned of the continued capping of certain statutory grants. The excess cost grant, which helps support our neediest students, has been significantly underfunded for many years, while the costs of providing special education services have grown significantly. This combination of factors significantly compromises the ability of districts to provide adequate educational needs for all children.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

*About us: The Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) is a non-profit professional association that represents school business officials throughout the State of Connecticut. School business officials work closely with school boards, school superintendents, administrators, staff, public officials and communities; and we are responsible for most aspects of school business and operations. This includes, but is not limited to, overseeing food service programs.*