



Connecticut Education Association

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Policy, Research, & Government Relations

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Testimony of
Ray Rossomando
Connecticut Education Association

Before the
Housing Committee

Re:
**HB 7028 AA Increasing the Reimbursement Percentage for School Building Project
Grants for Municipalities That Meet Certain Affordable Housing Thresholds**

HB 7030 AA Expanding the Open Choice Voucher Pilot Program

February 27, 2025

Good evening, Senator Marx, Representative Felipe, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee. My name is Ray Rossomando, and I'm the Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association. CEA is an organization representing active and retired teachers from over 155 school districts across Connecticut.

We testify today in support of HB 7028 and HB 7030.

Equitable housing opportunities and educational opportunities go hand-in-hand, yet finding both operating in concert in Connecticut's communities is rare. We believe that such innovative approaches can make great progress toward building stronger, more diverse communities that ensure more equitable opportunities.

Students participating in the state's Open Choice program have an exciting opportunity to attend schools in districts unlike the ones where they live. Providing the opportunity for families with children attending an Open Choice school to live in the same district has been a great step forward. We support HB 7030 and reestablishing this effort.

Additionally, we support school construction incentives to encourage communities to expand housing for families with schoolchildren. We support HB 7028 and commend the proponents for bringing this legislation forward.

Thank you.