Testimony on behalf of The Connecticut Parent Teachers Association (CT PTA)  
Before the Education Committee  
February 22, 2019

Raised Bill 7110 - AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCED CLASSROOM SAFETY AND SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (CT PTA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised Bill 7110.

A similar bill to this (SB 453 - Public Act No. 18-89) was proposed, adopted by the legislature and ultimately vetoed by Governor Malloy last session. We believed then that the veto was the right thing to do and advocated that the legislature come back to the drawing board with new language that takes into consideration the concerns of multiple group who opposed the legislation last year.

The CT PTA was invited to participate in the State Department of Education’s working group on last year’s legislation over the summer. One of the concerns then was protecting the privacy of the student removed from the classroom and having the student’s family involved in the team process to evaluate the incident and develop an agreed upon plan to get the student back into the classroom.

The CT PTA is hopeful that the current language addresses these concerns and will continue to support safe learning environment not only for students but for the teachers. The CT PTA wants teachers to be excited to come to school every day and feel safe in their environment. We also believe students in the classroom have a right to feel safe at school and not be targeted outside of the classroom for actions that occurred inside the classroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before you today.

About Connecticut PTA

Connecticut PTA comprises over 38,000 members consisting of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools and well-being of children. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education, children’s health and child welfare. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth.