

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Labriola Opposes Measure to Impose New Mandate on Local Schools in Debate on House Floor



Bill Would Require Public and Private Elementary Schools to Provide 'Democracy Education' Program

State Representative David K. Labriola has opposed a bill that would require public and private elementary schools to offer a 'democracy education' program as part of their fourth or fifth grade curriculum, saying it would impose a new unfunded mandate on local school districts.

"The last thing Naugatuck, Oxford and Southbury school districts need is another unfunded state mandate," said Representative Labriola, R-131st District, who argued against the measure in debate on the floor of the state House of Representatives.

"This bill not only would add to the cost of operating local school districts, but also would impose a policy mandate that would force boards of education throughout the state to revise their fourth or fifth grade curriculums to include this program," Representative Labriola said. "Curriculum development should be left up to locally-elected school boards, who best understand the needs of their students."

The bill (**House Bill 7017**) was approved by the state House on a 96 – 52 vote. Most Democrats supported the measure while most Republicans were opposed. It now goes to the state Senate for final legislative approval.