



**Testimony by David G. Carter, Chancellor
Connecticut State University System**

**Before the Committee on Commerce
Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. For the record, I am David G. Carter, Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5881, *An Act Concerning Financial Assistance for Amateur Boxing*.

The Connecticut State University System is comprised of Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University. The System includes over 35,000 students, 93 percent of whom are from Connecticut and, once they graduate, 86 percent of them remain here. All four Universities are committed to working in their local communities. For example, Southern Connecticut State University has hosted the Special Olympics. Western Connecticut State University has had considerable experience hosting similar educational programming for external groups. These include the Hord Foundation's Academy, the Hua Xia Chinese Cultural School and, this summer, the Nutmeg State Games.

That is why I applaud Speaker James Amann and the efforts to support amateur boxing and bring USA Boxing to the State of Connecticut. We welcome the opportunity to partner with the USA Boxing Association in various initiatives including USA Boxing University. Although many details including availability of the potential dates and the funding support must be worked out, we are interested in providing the athletes a University experience. It will not only provide them with important life skills today but it is our hope that by exposing them to our universities for seminars and team building exercises, they will see the importance of postsecondary education and dare to dream for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you have at this time.