



Written Testimony by
David G. Carter, Chancellor
Connecticut State University System
Before the Education Committee
Monday, March 23, 2009

Good afternoon, Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) in support of Senate Bill 6686, *An Act Concerning the Teacher Education and Mentoring Program*. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the State Department of Education, school districts, regional educational service centers, representatives from bargaining units and other public institutions of higher education to establish and administer a teacher education and mentoring program that is aligned with the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching. We were happy to participate to the Task Force pursuant to Public Act 08-107, *An Act Concerning the BEST Program*.

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In the Report of the Beginning Educator Support and Training Program (BEST)/Mentor Assistant Program (MAP) Task Force, it emphasized the importance of student teachers in relationship to the teacher education and mentoring program. It states that "The task force believes that future cooperating teachers, who work with student teachers, will be obligated to participate in a full-day of training to provide them with a comprehensive overview of what the new MAP includes and how their work in guiding student teachers will play into the entire induction program that future teachers will experience. Universities may conduct the full-day MAP training as well, ensuring the number of cooperating teachers is not depleted." We would respectfully request that you consider amending the bill before you to require student teachers to participate in training on the Teacher Education and Mentoring Program as conducted by the Institutions of Higher Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this important education reform.

Your consideration of this testimony is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact Jill E. Ferraiolo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations/Communications, should you require any additional information or have any questions regarding these matters.



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