Written Testimony Submitted by
Chancellor David G. Carter
Connecticut State University System
Before the Committee on
Higher Education and Employment Advancement
Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Due to previous commitments, I am unable to appear before you today, but I wanted to submit comments for your consideration on **Senate Bill 977, *An Act Concerning the Higher Education Matching Grant Program.***

This bill is potentially of tremendous benefit to Connecticut, as elimination of the Budget Reserve Fund funding requirement will promote private giving to the University Foundations at Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities, thus benefiting higher education programs and students in our state. The trigger has served to restrict appropriations to the State Matching Grant Fund, virtually negating the potential positive impact of this matching fund approach. This has resulted in the discouragement of potential donors at a time when they are needed more than ever. We support this bill as a means of encouraging private contributions in support of public higher education in Connecticut.

As our state's largest university system, the Connecticut State University System is squarely focused on Connecticut and we value our partnership with the legislature. We are on the same page – with a shared commitment to provide Connecticut's students with the first-class education they will need to succeed, and thereby keep our economy and our quality of life second to none.

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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