

Good afternoon, Chairs Prague and Ryan and to all the Committee:

My name is Gilbert L. Gigliotti, and it is as Chairman of the English Department at Central Connecticut State University that I am here to express my concern with House Bill 5195.

As you know, in the academy, we do not award gold watches for excellent professors at the end of their 30 or 40 years of service. Instead we honor them with the title of professors *emeriti* because we recognize their expertise and skills in, and contribution to, their chosen fields of study. Their *emeritus* status, while it is an honor that can only be granted at retirement, is at the same time a clear recognition of their invaluable place in a department, a school, and a university. It is for this reason that setting a time limit for their hiring as part-time instructors is in many ways detrimental to our students and universities.

Take, for an example, one of our emeriti professors, Dr. Barry Leeds, a CSU Professor and one of the world's leading experts in the writings of Norman Mailer -- although I could name other faculty who have been equally important to our students, our department, and our University. Dr. Leeds retired in 2003, but, since then, he has taught one senior-level course per semester in the English Department (Norman Mailer every Fall semester, Ernest Hemingway every Spring). Both before and after his retirement he brought Mr. Mailer several times (until the author's death) to meet with his classes at CCSU (with absolutely no fanfare, as Mr. Mailer had requested), and he continues to this day to bring students with him to a variety of academic conferences on Mailer. Furthermore, at the author's death, Professor Leeds' connections with the Mailer family and other world-renowned scholars allowed CCSU to hold one of the more substantive memorials (both in terms of scholarship and emotion) anywhere outside Mr. Mailer's funeral.

This is the kind of substantial contribution that emeriti faculty can *and do* bring to a university. If Bill 5195 passes without at least some exemption or stipulation for university faculty, Dr. Leeds' expertise, knowledge, and skill will be unceremoniously sent to the curb -- a savings of several thousand dollars every year, to be sure, but an incalculable loss to our students.

Thank you,

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