

Legislative Testimony
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement
SB 136 An Act Concerning New and Revised Academic Programs of Nonprofit Independent
Institutions of Higher Learning
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
John A. Raus, DMD

Representative Willis, Representative Candelaria and members of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, my name is Dr. John A. Raus and I a practicing dentist of 34 years in Stamford Connecticut. I am a member of the Connecticut State Dental Association Board of Governors. I wish to personally thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you regarding SB 136.

I am opposed to SB 136 for the following reasons:

Within the Mission Statement of the Board of Governors for Higher Education the statutory mission is to: "maintain standards of quality, ensuring a position of national leadership for Connecticut higher education institutions..," Within these parameters the Board's responsibility is to review licensure and accreditation of academic programs and institutions both public and private". It helps to assure that state residents get the most "bang" for their educational dollar. The role of this oversight is to produce through the institutions of higher learning, the strongest and most competitive workforce for the state.

It seems counterintuitive to remove this safeguard, this being said during a time of financial stress when many of the state's residents due to the difficult job market seek opportunities afforded by additional education. Removal of oversight would promote the spread of non accredited programs to an unsuspecting public.

I believe the safeguards that the Board of Governors of Higher Education provides the state residents would be significantly diminished by enactment of this proposal.

In closing, I would like to again thank the Committee for allowing to submit this written testimony and would be happy to make myself available at any time should you have questions.

Sincerely,

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