



Written Testimony
by Chancellor David G. Carter
Connecticut State University System
Before the Labor and Public Employees
Committee
March 2, 2010

Good afternoon, Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Due to previous commitments, I am unable to appear before you today, but I wanted to submit comments for your consideration on House Bill 5195, *An Act Concerning the Rehiring of Retired State Employees*.

This bill restricts the Connecticut State University System's ability to meet the growing demands placed on the System by increasing enrollments. As you know, the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) is comprised of Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities. Most of our students (93 percent) are from Connecticut and over 86 percent of CSUS graduates stay in the State after graduation. We produce graduates that become a vital part of the economic engine of Connecticut.

The System employs approximately 3,200 faculty and staff who are either directly or indirectly involved in student support services. In the past two years, a total of 202 employees have retired from the Connecticut State University System. At the same time, interest in attending the universities is at an all time high with enrollments reaching more than 36,000. Because of budgetary restrictions, we have been unable to establish new faculty lines and hire necessary staff in student support services. We have been able to meet some of the needs by judiciously rehiring back a small percentage of those that retired. In fact, only 35 retirees or 17 percent have been rehired to fill critical positions.

In relation to faculty, we customarily hire back retired faculty members to teach individual courses at our universities. These individuals, who distinguished themselves while members of our faculty, are a great source of high quality teachers for our students. It would be a disservice to our students if we arbitrarily limited the ability of the System to bring these scholars and teachers back to teach. It is important to note as well that when faculty are rehired, they are not paid at their old rate, but rather they are paid at the rate of an adjunct faculty member (\$1,478 per credit), a very affordable and cost-effective manner to secure the highest quality teachers in our classes.

Your consideration of this testimony is greatly appreciated. I would respectfully ask that if this bill moves forward, you give special consideration to the needs of the public higher education system. 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.