



State of Connecticut  
Department of Higher Education

Testimony by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education  
Before the Program Review and Investigations Committee  
1:30 p.m. – LOB Room 2D  
March 1, 2010

**House Bill 5164 (Raised) An Act Implementing the Recommendation of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment in the Green Industry**

The Department of Higher Education is pleased to support HB 5164: An Act Implementing the Recommendation of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment in the Green Industry.

We applaud the Program Review Committee's proposal which addresses two critical needs for creating new educational curriculum, and for stimulating economic development in emerging fields of green technology. Today's economy demands both for Connecticut to create new and meaningful employment opportunities for our citizens. The renewed emphasis on credentials and careers is further encouraged by the governor's loan reimbursement initiative. This alignment will attract students to new fields of study and encourage the establishment of new careers. It wisely builds upon the federal government's recent focus on the creation of both green economic investments and new green jobs.

On behalf of our colleges and universities, both public and independent, we very much support this proposal's involvement of higher education in stimulating economic development, and we look forward to working on it with members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee.

**Senate Bill 268 (Raised) An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Establishing a Pilot Program to Reward Institutions of Higher Education that are Meeting Established Goals**

The Department of Higher Education is pleased to support the establishment of a pilot performance measure incentive for the Accountability Report as outlined in SB 268.

We are cognizant of the limited availability of funding resources at this time, and are heartened by the Committee's support of goal attainment. We are encouraged by the recognition of the importance of accountability in the construction of an efficient and high quality education system. It is in difficult economic times such as these that any incentive to the pursuit of goal oriented performance is greatly appreciated.

Our public colleges and universities work hard to achieve and maintain excellent performance and are pleased to continue to demonstrate accountability for established goals.

**House Bill 5349 (Raised) An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning a Strategic Plan and Coordination for Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment**

The Department is always willing to work with our partners in Higher Education to promote and examine workforce needs in relation to workforce needs and shortages. This bill offers an ambitious plan for the Department that may be difficult to achieve within our current staffing levels. The Department we would like to work with the committee to perhaps extend some of the dates for reports and plans currently in the bill. We would like to again thank the committee and the program review staff for their time and attention in working with the Department over the last nine months.