



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony before the Program Review and Investigation Committee March 1st, 2010

Senator Kissel, and Representative Mushinsky and members of the Program Review and Investigation committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, which has over 900 affiliated local unions representing the working men and women from every one of our 169 cities and towns, and am here to testify on the following bills.

S.B. No. 266 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING TRANSFERRING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO THE COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM.

We do not support this recommendation. The Connecticut Community College (CCC) system lacks curriculum, qualified teachers and appropriate facilities to provide these courses. Duplicating existing technical school resources would be expensive and wasteful.

When evening course technical school teachers work with employers and building trades unions, they remain current with industry skill requirements and are able to share this knowledge with their day students.

Apprentices related courses currently cost about \$100. The CCC system charges about \$350 for a 3 credit cost. Affordability is a critical issue for small employers and individuals.

CCC system resources would be better used to develop and provide short term training for unemployed individuals who cannot commit time and fees for long term training. The CCC system needs to be more responsive to the short term training needs of businesses and workers, especially unemployed workers who need specific skills, not semester enrollment, degrees or certificates to return quickly to work.

H.B. No. 5165 AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

We do not support this recommendation without the State stepping up to fully fund this requirement. Connecticut's teachers, administrators and school personnel are already under funded, and over worked, resulting in a stressed system. If the State wants to put additional requirements then the State must put additional dollars into the local budgets. Without adequate funding these requirements cannot be met.

Thank you to the Committee for holding this public hearing and if you have any question I'd be happy to address them.

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