



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE F. CAFERO, JR.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN LEADER

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 4200
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
FAX: (860) 240-0184

Good morning Chairs Bye and Willis, Ranking Members Boucher and LeGeyt, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

On behalf of the House Republican Caucus, I'd like to thank the committee for holding this hearing on SB 1011, *An Act Concerning a Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Public Higher Education*, and HB 6255, *An Act Concerning the Connecticut State University System*.

Back in January, Legislative Republicans came together to announce what we feel are fundamental, "Common Sense" principles that our government should abide by especially during these trying times. This set of Principles and proposals seek to reduce state government spending, create jobs, and make it more affordable to live and work in Connecticut.

One of the principles we feel important to highlight while commenting on SB 1011 and HB 6255 is, "You should have all the government you need, but only the government you need." To that end, we are open to any proposals that seek to consolidate government services, including duplicative governance and administrative services within the higher education system.

The structure of our education bureaucracy has become a symbol of what government should NOT look like. Here are the major pieces of our education bureaucracy

- The Department of Education handles administrative functions for elementary and secondary education.
- The Department of Higher Education does the same thing but for our colleges and universities.
- The Connecticut State University (CSU) System Central Office also handles administrative and policy issues for the four CSU branches.
- The CSU branches each have their own administrative staff.

- The Regional Community Technical College System Central Office has its own staff that handles administrative functions for each of the 12 Community Technical Colleges.
- Each of the Community Technical Colleges has their own administrative staff to also handle administrative functions.
- The University of Connecticut, which has 5 branch campuses. The administrative and facility staff at UConn alone is approaching 1,000 employees. And, this does not include the staff at the University of Connecticut Health Center.
- Charter Oak State College offers online higher education learning opportunities and has a staff of 31.
- The Distance Learning Consortium is separate from Charter Oak State College but offers online learning to elementary and secondary education.

Each year, the budgets of every constituent unit of the Connecticut State University System and the community-technical college system have increased. Now more than ever, it is critical to review what has caused these increases and whether savings in governance and administrative efficiencies could be put towards our budget deficit. Consolidation of these two entities would be a great start to reforming the disjointed and redundant administrative functions of these two entities and the individual colleges and universities they serve.

Our caucus has been looking into this issue for the last few sessions and we believe that the current budget crisis makes such a review a top priority. To that end, this year, Legislative Republicans proposed SB 286, which seeks to streamline duplicative administrative processes within the CSUS and CTC system.

Quality higher education in this state is a vital component of growing a skilled workforce and the economy. We believe that the education of Connecticut students will improve if we reduce duplication in higher education administration, streamline these functions, and implement a new system that maximizes resources and promotes efficiency.

While we support the Governor's efforts to reorganize Connecticut's system of public higher education, consolidations do not produce savings unless duplication is eliminated. That could mean that positions, processes, or physical space occupied by the state is eliminated. We hope that this Committee, along with the higher education system, the legislature, and the Governor's office can work together to truly consolidate our higher education bureaucracy, saving millions of taxpayer dollars.

I think we all agree that as public servants to our constituents, we should be doing all we can to continue to create an efficient government so that we can provide improved customer service to every citizen, including the students enrolled in the higher education system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to come before you and we look forward to working with the committee.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to take them now.