

Meriden Adult, Continuing and Vocational Education

Testimony for hearing on Proposed Bill No. 6321

My name is Donald H. Friedman and I am the Director of Meriden Adult Education. I am here to speak in support of Proposed Bill No. 6321 – An Act Establishing a College Transition Pilot Program Requiring Adult Education Programs To Offer Remedial Education Classes.

I was delighted that our local State Representative, Cathy Abercrombie, sponsored this much needed programming that will save both the state and, more importantly, students money. Other people, I'm sure, will speak to other merits of this bill.

I would like to speak to the implementation of the pilot program when the bill is successfully passed. Our Meriden Adult Education program would be a willing participant in this proposed pilot. We have partnered effectively with the Meriden Center of Middlesex Community College on other initiatives. Currently a high percentage of Meriden students are in need of Developmental courses before they can qualify for credit bearing classes at Middlesex. These students are spending their Pell Grant dollars on these non-credit bearing Developmental classes and then do not have the funds to finish their associates or certificate programs.

Proposed Bill No. 5417 would allow Adult Education programs to offer these remedial classes to students, who have already earned a high school diploma but need to refresh their basic skills to qualify for college placement. This bill would allow students to receive these remedial/developmental classes through Adult Education at no cost to the student. Adult Education can provide this programming at less cost than the community colleges, saving the state dollars.

I would take great pleasure in Meriden Adult Education having the opportunity to provide this kind of assistance to the educational benefit of students in our community. We would be a willing and capable provider of this pilot program.

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