

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 1011

**AN ACT CONCERNING A REORGANIZATION OF CONNECTICUT'S SYSTEM OF HIGHER
EDUCATION**

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 1011, *An Act Concerning A Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Higher Education*.

This bill is to implement the recommendations of Governor Malloy's proposed budget. The proposal creates a Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to serve as the governing body for the Department of Higher Education (DHE), the Connecticut State University System (CSU), Regional Community-Technical Colleges (CTCs), and Charter Oak State College (COSC).

A new higher education governance model is critically needed. More coordination, expanded transparency and streamlined administrative structures could provide the resources necessary to re-invigorate the academic missions of CSU, CTC, COSC and the DHE. Under this proposal, the Board of Regents for Higher Education will assume budgetary and policy control over DHE, CSU, CTC and COSC. The constituent units will continue to operate as separate entities.

The eleven members of the Board of Regents for Higher Education would govern the system. The BOR will be lead by a President who will appoint staff needed to operate DHE, CSU, the CTC and COSC. The BOR will determine how financial resources are distributed to individual institutions.

Passage of this bill will provide a seamless, single strategic voice with which the governance of the two largest systems of public higher education can proceed. With this new administrative umbrella, the two systems will walk in lockstep, with a clear vision of the future of Connecticut's higher education in the new millennium.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee to support this bill. If you have any questions, please submit them to my office and I will be happy to answer them.