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Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee's public hearing on S.B. No. 1011
- An Act Concerning a Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Public Higher Education.

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today. The restructuring of the CSU system will affect Eastern in many ways. Eastern is Connecticut's only Public Liberal Arts University and has a unique mission that will be hurt by the restructuring. At Eastern we understand that Connecticut has a budget crisis, however, by taking away from the Higher Ed Universities you are hurting our mission. At Eastern our liberal arts mission and curriculum promotes academic excellence, facilitates engagement and inclusion, models integrity, social responsibility and empowerment maximizing student learning through a co-curricular experience grounded in the liberal arts. By linking the CSU schools with the Community Colleges and you are endangering the unique mission of both types of institutions. Here at Eastern we are educated to fight for change, to create jobs not just fill them, and to become better people in society. We understand that there is a need for budget cuts from the CSU system to help the budget crises in Connecticut, however, the restructuring calls for another 15 percent of our budget to be given to the board of regions. This is only going to hurt us more! At Eastern our class sizes are a 15 to 1, by taking an extra 15 percent of our budget on top of the other proposed budget cuts you are negatively impacting our academic programs and our professors leading to increased class sizes and a decreased value in our degrees. As an involved student at Eastern Connecticut State University I ask you to look at the facts when restructuring the CSU system! Eastern has been ranked as a Tier One school and identified as one of the top 100 regional Universities, the top 28th public institution, and is ranked highest of all schools in the CUS system according to the U.S. News and World Report's

2011!!! As we look to the future, and you consider the bills put forward, please don't just think of the politics of the restructuring but think of us, the students, and the value of the degrees we are obtaining from the Connecticut State Universities! Thank You.