

 **CharterOak**
STATE COLLEGE

Degrees Without Boundaries

**To: Co-Chair Senator Andrew Maynard & Co-Chair Representative Jack Hennessy
Ranking Member Senator Jason Welch & Ranking Member Representative Al
Adinolfi
Members of the Veterans Affairs Committee**

From: Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College

Date: March 1, 2011

**Re: Raised Bill 6478, An Act Concerning Tuition Waivers For Certain Veterans And
Members Of The National Guard Enrolled At Charter Oak State College.**

Charter Oak State College voluntarily supports our veterans, their families and troops in the Armed Services. We understand and deeply appreciate the sacrifices that all of them have made day in and day out, to the citizens of Connecticut and this country. We encourage them to further their education by using the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill and other Federal Grants which are already in place.

Although the State of Connecticut is required by statute to provide reimbursement for military waivers, this reimbursement has never been provided to the higher education constituent units and results in an increased revenue loss to their operating budgets. To make up the revenue lost, the colleges and universities have to increase tuition. Therefore, the costs of these waivers are ultimately paid for by students who are *not* eligible for the waivers. The same would be true for Charter Oak State College, should this bill be enacted.

I would like to clarify a couple of points about this bill. Charter Oak State College has not been included in Connecticut State Statute waivers for Veterans up to this point. However, in January 2010, the College voluntarily instituted a policy to offer 50% waivers for Connecticut Veterans. That policy change resulted in a cost of \$39,200 for thirty-seven Connecticut Veterans. Had we offered 100% waivers, the cost would have been \$78,000 in calendar year 2010. Should this bill be enacted, our estimated cost of the Veteran's waivers at 100% for FY 12 would be \$185,000, as we expect to see an increase in the number of Veterans who would enroll in the College. Additionally, Charter Oak State College does not currently tabulate National Guard and therefore, this could be a significant cost. Currently, the College provides \$57,252 in waivers to Connecticut students.

I share this with you because it is important during these difficult budget years of shared sacrifices, it is important for the members of the General Assembly to understand the fiscal impact of the bill that is now under consideration.

Lastly, the bill refers to our tuition" being waived. The College does not charge *tuition* per se. Therefore, I would respectfully request that the language of the bill be adjusted to refer to our "course enrollment fee." This is the *fee* that that is equivalent to "tuition" and which the College uses to calculate the 50% waiver for Veterans.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

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