

### House Bill No. 5204 Testimony

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, members of the committee, I am Andrew Marsh, a high school student from Moodus, Connecticut. I come before you today to express my support for House Bill No. 5204, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COLLEGE INTERN REGULATORY BOARD.

Allow me to share with you my reasoning for my support. You see, in the year of 2011, my mother was a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, and during her final year, she was placed at an internship. Now, my mother was an excellent student; she put 100% into everything she did, she studied extremely hard, and, after 6 years at UConn, she had a G.P.A. of 3.9, an extremely remarkable performance.

Unfortunately, my mother was part of an incoming graduate class that was almost twice the size of the usual graduate class. In addition, during her time in the UConn graduate program, the clinic director retired after more than 25 years in that position, leaving the responsibility for internship placements in the hands of a new and inexperienced clinic director and faculty. The increased class size augmented the need for internship placement locations. These factors led to her placement in a location that had never hosted an intern from UConn. Moreover, UConn faculty did not adequately prepare, communicate, obtain placement contracts or even know the supervisor's name before sending her there.

This lack of communication and attention by UConn faculty led to an unsuccessful placement, despite my mother's dedication and best efforts. Although she attempted to rectify this situation through the available mediation process, she found that those assigned to mediate the situation, were the same faculty that had created the problem in the first place. As a result, my mother was required to redo 100 hours of internship, delaying her graduation, and leaving her without the clock hours necessary to obtain school certification, automatically decreasing her options of employment.

Now, we can't change the past, but it doesn't mean we have to repeat it. If this bill is passed, then complaints like this would be taken up with the board, thus helping to prevent future unfair intern decisions. Therefore, it's imperative that this bill be passed to protect every college intern's right to a fair education.