

 **CharterOak**  
**STATE COLLEGE**  

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**Degrees Without Boundaries**

**To: Co-Chair Senator Carlo Leone & 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: February 28, 2012**

**Re: Raised Bill 5296, An Act Concerning Course Enrollment Fee 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. This proposed legislation codifies existing practice, and in addition adds members of the National Guard to those eligible for a waiver. This will result in an additional cost of \$45,000 and impacts an estimated 51 National Guardsmen.

I share this with you because, 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.

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

Degrees Without Boundaries

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