



CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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Employment Advancement Committee
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Good afternoon Senators Bye and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyst, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. My name is David Levinson and I am the Vice President for the Community Colleges at the Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs our state's four state universities, 12 community colleges and Charter Oak State College. Collectively, we are known as the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities. I am also the President of Norwalk Community College. I am here to offer testimony regarding **House Bill 6562, *An Act Concerning Adult Education and Transition to College***.

We support House Bill 6562 which provides an opportunity for high school students with diplomas to seek additional remedial support from adult education programs if such remedial education is needed in order to provide a streamlined, effective and efficient approach for transition to postsecondary education.

As you are aware, the Board of Regents for Higher Education has been working collaboratively across our 17 institutions during the last year to provide a framework and foundation in support of the legislation passed last year reforming the way in which we provide remedial education. Representatives from all of our institutions have worked together to create regional teams to review, discuss, analyze and create potential approaches to support embedded remedial instruction at the postsecondary level rather than separate and distinct remedial coursework.

We support the need for external partnerships to assist in the collaborative and creative solutions to this issue. Eastern Connecticut State University President Elsa Núñez and I met with a number of our key partners state-wide, such as representatives from the Workforce Investment Boards, adult education, community-based partners and organizations, and industry associations. Only through diligent efforts supported by all concerned parties can institutions be successful in creating and implementing a model that most effectively provides remedial education services and increases student achievement and completion.

In late April, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) are co-hosting a conference entitled "*Collaboration Conference on Returning Adults: Partnering to Meet the Requirements of Public Act 12-40*." This conference will feature presentations by many of our external state-wide partners on the subject of current remediation efforts and successful programs and will also allow our regional institutional teams the opportunity to meet to further discuss approaches to collaborative efforts to best support all our students.

We are excited and energized by the interest and support of our partners in this effort, and we believe, through legislation such as HB 6562, our students will be better served in receiving the support and engagement necessary to better transition to all 17 of our institutions.

Lastly, I would also like to offer our support for **House Bill 6655, *An Act Concerning Campus Safety and Security***. Two of the most critical crisis preparedness needs are planning and communication. This bill emphasizes both.

However, we do request small changes to this bill. Section three requires the Board to consult with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to study the effectiveness of converting campus security to campus police. We request that the language be broadened to allow the Board to study and report the most effective method of providing a security force on campus and the cost of doing so. We can imagine a scenario where some campus safety functions would best be operated by campus security, and still others by campus police, and broader language would allow for this scenario. We also request that language in section six be modified to allow for the Board of Regents to access state funding to pay for the cost of conducting such an evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on these two bills, and I will be happy to answer any questions.