



University of Connecticut Health Center

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
March 14, 2013
Public Hearing Testimony

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Tom Trutter, Associate Vice President, Campus Planning, Design and Construction., at the University of Connecticut Health Center. I am here on behalf of the Health Center and University of Connecticut to thank you for raising Senate Bills 889 AN ACT CONCERNING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS and 890 AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT and ask for your support of these measures. Both bills will conform UCONN 2000 Statutes with the current statutes of other state agencies.

Raised Bill 889 AN ACT CONCERNING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The proposed change in Raised Bill 889, An Act Concerning Advertisements for the University of Connecticut's Construction Projects conforms the UCONN 2000 statutes with the current Department of Administrative Services' (DAS) practice and statutory framework regarding advertising for competitive bids and proposals for goods and services. In 2009, the Department of Administrative Services changed their statutes (PA 09-07 – section 158) to allow for internet only advertising for competitive bids and proposals for goods and services exceeding \$50,000. Last year, through PA 12-129, this practice was extended to public higher education institutions for the purchase of goods and services. Now, we are requesting that the UCONN 2000 statutes be amended to eliminate the requirement for newspaper advertisements for bids and RFPs for construction projects. Posting the bids and RFPs on the internet would still be required under the proposed language.

Raised Bill 890 AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

With regard to Raised Bill 890, An Act Concerning Design-Build Contracts at the University of Connecticut, we are requesting the authority for the University to enter into Design/Build construction contracts. Currently the University is limited to Design/Bid/Build and Construction Manager at Risk contracts. Adding Design/Build authority will provide the flexibility to utilize this approach on appropriate projects, as other agencies do. For example, Connecticut's Department of Construction Services has the authority to use the Design/Build method of contracting for construction projects. This method of contracting is used routinely for constructing relatively straightforward buildings like residence halls and parking garages. Also, many municipalities have used Design/Build when building schools. The advantage to Design/Build is that it aggregates both the design and construction into a single contract. In doing so, the University would be able to shorten the project schedules and potentially reduce costs by overlapping the design and construction phases.

We are grateful for your continued support of the UConn Health Center and the University and urge your support of Senate Bills 889 and 890.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.