

Mark L. Boxer
Executive Vice President and
Chief Information Officer



October 3, 2013

Legislative Program Review and Investigation Committee
State Capitol, Room 506
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

VIA E-MAIL
pri@cga.ct.gov

Dear Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky and members of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony related to the important role UConn plays in training future members of Connecticut's workforce. In our experience, UConn not only attracts students with significant intellectual and athletic capabilities, it also attracts those with a strong work ethic and a deep commitment to on-the-job learning.

As you are aware, Cigna is a global health services organization headquartered in Bloomfield, Connecticut. Our insurance subsidiaries are major providers of medical, dental, disability, life and accident insurance and related products and services. Cigna's mission is to improve the health, well-being and sense of security of the individuals it serves around the world. Key to our mission and strategy is our customer-centric approach; we seek to engage our U.S.-based and global customers by offering effective, easy-to-understand insurance, health and wellness products and programs that meet their unique individual needs. We do this by providing access to relevant information to ensure informed buying decisions, partnering with physicians and care providers in the U.S. and around the world, and delivering a highly personalized customer experience. This approach aims to deliver high quality care at lower costs for each of our stakeholders: individuals, employers and government payors.

Currently, Cigna employs approximately 4,000 people in its Bloomfield office. As a large employer, it is critical that we have the right talent now and in the future. This means developing a pipeline of early career hires that support our mission. In our view, a strong, research-oriented public university is critical to the success of our company, the growth of our industry and the economic health of our state.

Through its on-campus internship programs and innovation center partnerships, UConn has been an ideal academic partner for Cigna and has proved a reliable source for highly qualified business, science and engineering graduates. Since beginning this partnership, Cigna has launched three on-campus innovation centers at Storrs in analytics, digital media and software engineering and has collaborated with the University on three research studies. UConn offers the quality, affordability and excellence in research - right in our own backyard which allows us to develop innovative solutions to provide our customers with better outcomes and service.

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Cigna recruits more students from UConn than any other institution. Over the course of three years, Cigna has hired more than 50 UConn graduates and doubled the size of our UConn intern population. These internships offer students the opportunity to work in a variety of functions ranging from information technology to financial analysis to underwriting and other disciplines throughout our organization. UConn graduates represent 20% of our total college hires and over 90% of UConn graduates who come to Cigna as student hires stay with the company, improving the economic health of the state.

In order for Connecticut to maintain our competitive position in the insurance sector, today's leaders must train tomorrow's. UConn is one important element to providing employers with the skilled workforce they need to compete nationally and globally.

We respectfully request that the Committee consider the importance of UConn as a partner in the economic development of our state as it develops its recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Boxer', written in a cursive style.

Mark L. Boxer
Executive Vice President and
Chief Information Officer