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# Connecticut Technical

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# High School System

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Testimony of John Murphy

Connecticut Technical High School System

Before

Commerce Committee

March 6, 2014

Regarding

**Raised Bill No. 305 - An Act Concerning Funding for the "Dream It. Do It."  
Manufacturing Pipeline Program**

My name is John Murphy and I am the Manufacturing Education Consultant for the Connecticut Technical High School System. I am appearing in support of Raised Bill No. 305 to provide for "Connecticut. Dream It. Do It." a program that is actively creating and implementing activities to enhance Connecticut's current and future manufacturing workforce pipeline.

The mission of the CTHSS is to provide a rigorous educational program, which meets the needs of Connecticut's citizens and employers through intensive, occupation-specific training, apprenticeship credit and academic instruction. The CTHSS continually seeks practices that provide accountability to its constituents. Toward that end, over the last five years we have responded to manufacturer's feedback by increasing the rigor of curriculum to include concepts and skills that are essential for success in a 21<sup>st</sup> century precision machining environment, making our students job ready upon graduation. The CTHSS Precision Manufacturing program has aligned its curriculum to the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) skill standards and began having students earn NIMS Level I machining credentials during the 2008-2009 SY. In addition, recently approved bond funding has been used to replace and upgrade equipment supporting this new curriculum, student credentialing, and teaching the skills needed in a 21<sup>st</sup> century precision machining environment.

For the past several years, CTHSS has been working in partnership with CCAT and the *Connecticut. Dream It. Do It.* program. Through its work with the National Association of Manufacturers, Connecticut Dream It. Do It. has supported our efforts to implement these industry recognized credentials and promote a Skills Certification System that is recognized and valued by Connecticut's precision manufacturers.

We have been especially focused on engaging and recruiting middle school students into the CTHSS as well as encouraging enrolled 9<sup>th</sup> graders to select precision manufacturing as a career choice. For the past two years, Governor Dannel P. Malloy has officially declared October as "Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. Manufacturing Month," Our high school precision machining and CADD students have worked with the Dream It. Do It. staff to encourage young students to pursue a career in manufacturing.

Throughout the rest of the year, Dream It. Do It. staff regularly participate in a variety of activities and functions at many of our technical schools. Attending New Freshman Night, Shop Selection Night, Parents' Night, and Open Houses have provided opportunities to promote manufacturing careers. Dream It. Do It. has also supported the highly successful *Young Manufacturers Summer Academy (YMSA)*. YMSA is a hands-on, experiential education program that introduces students to the 21<sup>st</sup> century advanced manufacturing workplace. This program has been run at 5 of the 13 CTHSS precision manufacturing sites with a goal of expanding to all precision manufacturing sites. Programs like this are also critical for increasing parents' awareness of how precision manufacturing jobs support a strong economy here in Connecticut.

A typical trade/technology program can have a maximum enrollment of 18 students per teacher in a two-person shop – 36 students during any one-shop cycle and a maximum of 72 students for a two-person shop. In April 2009, the CTHSS precision manufacturing program enrollment was at 62.32% capacity with 586 students. Today, there are 743 students enrolled in the program at 13 sites placing overall enrollment in the precision manufacturing program at 76.18% capacity. Overall, program enrollment has increased approximately 26%.

This increase is a direct result of the successful YMSA program created through our partnership with CCAT, Connecticut. Dream It. Do It., and coalition partners. This speaks to the critical importance of making both parents and students aware of the vast career opportunities within the field of precision machining and strengthening the skilled manufacturing education pipeline.

In conclusion, Raised Bill No. 305 provides the opportunity to build on the success of the State's investment in and commitment to manufacturing and preparing Connecticut's manufacturing students to be the best prepared students in our nation.