

## Testimony of JoAnn H. Price

### Nominee to the Connecticut Board of Regents

March 20, 2014

Good Afternoon, Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Camillo and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is JoAnn Price and it is both an honor and a privilege to be nominated by Governor Dannel Malloy to serve on the Board of Regents for Higher Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the unique opportunity to join this distinguished body of individuals devoted to providing Connecticut's young people and citizens the best possible opportunities and choices in education.

I was born and raised in North Wales, Pennsylvania a suburb of Philadelphia. My grandparents lived and raised their family in North Wales and in fact my mother, who is in her 90<sup>th</sup> year, lived there until this past year. I received a quality education in the public schools and decided that I wanted a different college experience and subsequently attended and graduated from Howard University, a Historically Black College in Washington D.C. I met my husband, who is a graduate of the Howard University School of Law, in Washington. We have three children, and two grandchildren.

My professional career spans close to four decades. It combines a career of community activism along with a successful business career. In 1994, my partner and co-founder Laurence Morse and I started a private equity investment firm in Farmington, CT, now located in West Hartford. I am pleased to report we are

celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> year in business with approximately \$3.5 billion of assets under management. Together, we strive to make Fairview Capital an excellent example of a successful firm of professionals with strong values and a track record of supporting the community with their time and resources.

I have been actively involved in mentoring and advocating on behalf of young people in many ways over the past thirty years. This includes financing, employing and encouraging young people to prepare and pursue a variety of educational paths. I am an active participant in the YMCA Youth and Parent Achiever program, designed to maximize a young person's potential and opportunity to explore and expand their networks and linkages. In doing so, it prepares them to enhance their ability to compete with young people across the Country by both broadening their base of relationships and assisting them in creating and building connections. This past year, I was honored to be recognized by President Obama at a White House ceremony in connection with my YMCA Achiever service. I also continue to serve on the Howard University Business School's Board of Visitors, which advises the academic dean on various educational initiatives.

The opportunity to serve on the Board of Regents provides yet another unique occasion to be of service. It brings me into direct contact with students, educators and administrators who are principally charged with instructing, teaching and preparing the next generation of young people to take us forward. I am overjoyed by the proposed financial commitment to our college educational system announced by Governor Malloy and supported by President Gray which enables the State of Connecticut to receive the resources that will allow the entire

secondary educational system to experience exponential growth and as a result be competitive in the national and international marketplace.

In closing, thank you for allowing me to express my gratitude and appreciation for the nomination to serve on the Board of Regents. I look forward to working with all of the stakeholders of our educational system.