

Testimony of Hartford Consortium of Higher Education

Chair, Ed Klonoski of Charter Oak State College

Committee on Planning and Development
Connecticut General Assembly

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My name is Ed Klonoski, and I am the current chair of the Hartford Consortium of Higher Education. The Hartford Consortium is made up of the colleges, universities, and seminaries that serve the Greater Hartford community. Among our initiatives is a longstanding effort called Career Beginnings that works to prepare Hartford high school students to make a successful transition to higher education.

In the process of that work, the Consortium has been working with the Hartford School district on a variety of projects, including the Hartford Promise. In the course of that collaboration we have come to admire and support the goals of the Promise, and begun a conversation about how we might provide administrative support to the project.

I support the intent of Raised Bill H.B 5347 and all efforts to find the funding necessary to move the Hartford Promise forward to a fully funded reality.

I believe the best way to offer our most challenged students hope than by providing them with the financing to begin imagining themselves as college graduates early in their education. The promise of financial support, beyond that already provided by the Federal government and the higher educational institutions themselves, provides these students with a powerful statement of support from their community. The Hartford Promise tells these youngsters that they have the full confidence and support of their city. If they meet the academic requirements of admission, they will not be held back from their dreams of higher education by finances.

This is the promise those of us with means offer our children, and it is our deepest hope that we can do the same for all our children.

So on behalf of the Hartford Consortium of Higher Education, I would like to go on record as supporting the Hartford Board of Education's efforts to grow the Hartford Promise.