

Connecticut Technical  
High School System

TO: Sen. John Kissel and Rep. Mary Mushinsky, Co-Chairs  
Program Review and Investigations Committee

*Nivea L. Torres*

FROM: Dr. Nivea L. Torres, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: March 3, 2014

SUBJECT: **HB 5375: AA Implementing the Recommendations of the  
Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (LPRI)  
on the Reemployment of Older Workers Concerning the Technical High School  
System (THSS)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on HB 5375: AA Implementing the Recommendations of the LPRI Committee on the Reemployment of Older Workers Concerning the THSS.

As you know, the Connecticut Technical High School System has a long-standing tradition of providing quality technical education to adult students across the state. As of February 2014, 447 adult students were enrolled in programs across the state. Adult students are offered full-time postsecondary day programs and part-time evening apprentice and extension programs. Collecting and reporting outcome information on adult students presently enrolled in our technical programs is needed in order to monitor our response to the challenges faced by unemployed workers and the impact that the programs have on workforce development across Connecticut.

As we move forward, please consider the need to develop and ensure the funding and infrastructure necessary to create and sustain this database. Presently, our Adult Program staff consists of one individual for the state. Collecting and gathering this important data will require additional support and trained staff to do so. I would also like to note that we have concerns regarding the ability to track students with their Social Security Numbers. We currently do not collect this data piece. A more effective approach would be to gather data based on state assigned identifiers, per Public Act 13-122, Section 3.

The CTHSS is committed to expanding adult programs and services and strongly supports this proposed legislation. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Labor and Workforce Investment Boards to supply older workers with a high quality technical education that leads to gainful employment in the state of Connecticut.

NLT:dc

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