

State Vocational Federation of Teachers



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Testimony of Jan Hochadel, SVFT President
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Raised Bill 5375

Joint Committee on Program Review and Investigations
March 4, 2014

As President of the over 1200 educators in the Connecticut Technical High School System, I am especially proud of the teachers in our adult education programs. While I believe our system is beginning to get recognition for the outstanding work we do preparing young people for successful careers, our adult programs are too often overlooked. Our six LPN programs, our two aviation schools, and programs throughout the State ranging from surgical tech, to dental assistance, to welding provide adults with an opportunity to develop skills and become successful and productive citizens. Adult programs in the CTHSS help people transform their lives.

The SVFT believes that Bill 5375 provides an opportunity for the CTHSS to demonstrate how successful our programs are. Our adult education teachers are proud of the success of their graduates, and we believe that the bill provides the opportunity to make that success public. When the people of Connecticut become more aware of our programs, there will be even greater demand. We look forward to seeing the adult education programs grow to better meet the demands of Connecticut's workforce.

Our concern with this bill is that both Central Office and the schools are already tremendously understaffed in addressing the needs of adult education. Currently, there is only one staff member at Central Office to address adult education issues. Within the schools, high school guidance coordinators often have to try to find the time to file the current adult education reports while still performing all the duties required in the high school; that task is often nearly impossible, and the information requirements of the bill could not be fulfilled with current staffing.

I believe Raised Bill 5375 would provide the documentation that would prove the viability of our adult programs. Without additional personnel, however, it would be impossible to gather the information the bill requires. Without the necessary funding, the bill would only serve to detract from the ability to educate all of our students. I believe this bill and the funding necessary to implement this bill would be an important step in supporting adult education through Connecticut's Technical High Schools. If that funding is not provided, then the bill will be a step backward for our programs, not forward.

Thank you.