

**Testimony of Sabrina Davis submitted to the Appropriations and higher education
Committee on February 24, 2015**

H.B. No. 6824 An Act Concerning the State Budget For the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and Making Appropriations Thereafter and Other Provisions Related to Revenue

Sabrina Davis appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **H.B. No. 6824-An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and Making Appropriations Thereafter and Other Provisions Related to Revenue**. It is imperative that the funding for the CT AHEC Network be restored (\$456K). Eastern AHEC, Inc. has provided me with the knowledge, background and training necessary to provide culturally competent care.

I am currently an Intern under the Collegiate Health Service Corps program at Eastern AHEC, Inc. As a CHSC Intern, I have been able to gain hands on experience with managing services that provide competent health care for the medically underserved people of Eastern Connecticut. I have never been part of an agency that has continually helped me grow both professionally and academically.

AHEC is based at the University of Connecticut Health Center and is implemented through four regional centers located in the Willimantic, Hartford, Waterbury, and Bridgeport areas. The four centers enable the AHEC Program to carry out local programs with great efficiency. As a statewide program, it functions locally to provide high quality, efficient, effective and flexible services that meet local needs.

Fiscal support for AHEC is as diverse as its programs with state, federal, foundation and private support. Withdrawal of state support will jeopardize these other resources. In an era of healthcare transformation, maintaining the \$456,000 AHEC line item in the 2015-2017 state budget is critical to assure that the CT AHEC Network will be there to deliver its unique services and programs to our residents as it creates the diverse, well trained and cost effective interprofessional healthcare workforce that Connecticut requires and deserves.

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