

TESTIMONY OF XIAO LI 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*

Xiao Li 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). AHEC provides. Eastern AHEC, Inc. has provided me with the training necessary to provide culturally competent care.

I currently attend UCONN where I have participated as a Collegiate Health Service Corps participant for 4 semesters with Eastern AHEC, Inc. As a CHSC participant I have been able to gain hands on experience by providing health education to medically underserved populations. I have never been part of a program that has continually helped me grow both professionally and academically. Connecticut residents with critical resources and programs that are both timely and essential in developing a healthcare workforce which is cost effective, culturally competent, interprofessional and responsive to the healthcare needs of the state.

For the past 17 years the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network and its four regional centers has successfully linked local community groups with the resources of the University of Connecticut, its Health Center and other academic institutions and health professions training programs across the state. With the focus of supporting and developing Connecticut's healthcare workforce, CT AHEC provides state-wide coverage and programming to thousands of residents through its collaboration with more than 200 community based partner organizations.

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 2016-2017 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 itwe creates the diverse, well trained and cost effective interprofessional healthcare workforce that Connecticut requires and deserves.