



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Higher Education

Testimony
by
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before the
Education Committee
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Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 1098, AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORTAGE AREAS, INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION RECIPROCITY, MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY INSTRUCTION and Raised Bill No. 7021, AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM EFFICACY.

As you know, the Office of Higher Education has run a successful Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program. Since 1988, 4,765 graduates have been prepared to teach in Connecticut through this program. Additionally, we are proud to be the largest preparer of world language teachers in our state. I call your attention to Sections 6 & 8 of Raised Bill No. 1098. In Section 6, Subsection (c), the language mandates an ARC program for school administrators and superintendents, as well as one for early childhood education teachers, begun on or before July 1, 2017. I would like to remind the Committee that when Subsection (b) was enacted in the year 2000, there was an appropriation made that did not survive. At this time, it would not be possible to implement these new programs, or compile the report required by Section 8, without additional resources.

In Raised Bill No. 7021, Section 1 requires the Office of Higher Education to annually submit a detailed report on the quality of teacher preparation programs in Connecticut. At this time, however, the Office does not have the staff capacity to produce the report that this legislation requires.

As always, I look forward to answering any questions you may have regarding these bills.