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Good day, respected leaders and members of our legislature. My name is Bill McGurk and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the Board of Regents by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my interest in higher education, my qualifications to serve as a member of the Board of Regents and to answer your questions.

My involvement, often in a leadership capacity, in a number of community and other activities is detailed in my resume so I won't bore you by reciting it here. Basically, I am a proud Navy veteran, retired community banker and father of five grown children with my wife, Mary. I have been involved in a wide variety of organizations in a wide range of capacities throughout my life. These include but are not limited to hospital, college, United Way, Interval House, Chambers of Commerce, church, Rotary, Kiwanis and veterans to the New England Air Museum.

May I focus on my Connecticut Community College involvement? I served on the Board of the Community Technical Colleges, rising to Vice Chairman and Chairman of the state Audit Committee until it was disbanded. I have also served on the Foundation Boards at Asnuntuck and Manchester Community Colleges. Mary and I are proud to have a small foot bridge on the Asnuntuck campus bearing our names and a computer classroom at MCC has been named in my honor. My low level of technological skills should motivate me to take a class in that room! At MCC I am also a Trustee Emeritus of their Foundation and currently serve on their capital campaign as Vice Chair. In the past I have served as a guest lecturer at ECSU and MCC on banking and financial career topics.

I support the concept of higher education for motivated students and derive special satisfaction from providing "Opportunity". For some, community colleges are an essential step on the road to an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree, should that be the student's goal.

I believe my past community college experience and desire to facilitate higher education opportunity will make me an asset to complete a full term on the Board of Regents.

Thank you for your attention. May I answer any questions or explain any of my votes as a Regent?