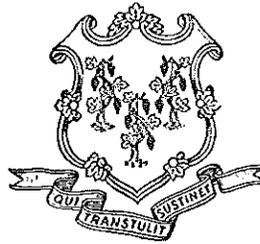


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State of Connecticut

SENATE

Fourteenth District

Chair
Education
Vice Chair
Human Services
Member
Appropriations
General Law

Testimony to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

**Proposed Senate Bill 393
An Act Concerning a Cap on the Administrative Expenses
of the Board of Regents for Higher Education and
the University of Connecticut**

February 26, 2015

Chairman Bartolomeo, Chairman Willis, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of SB 393 An Act Concerning a Cap on the Administrative Expenses of the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the University of Connecticut. This legislation seeks to cap the total administrative expenses of the central offices to each university system. While not looking to generalize about the management structures and choices of CSCU and UCONN, the reality is that growing costs for college administration coupled with cuts to higher education funding leave us unable to offer a model for our schools that puts most of the resources into student's hands.

We have heard the alarming reports about costs coming out of both system offices: higher salaries and severance packages, increased fees for private consultants and more. The costs for students have risen and available financial support has shrunk. At UCONN, the Program Review and Investigation Committee found that with decreased financial aid and increases in tuition and fees, the portion of a low or middle class family's income being spent on a college education has increased 13 percent from 2008 to 2011. Within CSCU the cost of tuition and fees has nearly doubled in the last ten years.

Consolidation of the Community Colleges and the Connecticut State University System was advocated in part for the cost savings of eliminating redundant services at the two system offices. Instead we read in the news about hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent on consultants hired to devise ways to boost enrollment.

As legislators, we recognize the reality that there is an upward pressure on the costs for talented administrators in higher education. Unlike the mission laid out by private universities, ours is a system where we service a public good much like public education at the K-12 level. Part of the

mission of CSCU and UCONN is to support the idea of upward mobility as a benefit for our democracy and our economy to any and all who ask for it through the outcomes of education.

The model for running our higher education system has to change and be one that puts more resources in student's hands. I ask that the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee consider a favorable report of the bill out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

State Senator Gayle Slossberg