



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
Office of Higher Education

**Testimony**  
**by**  
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**Executive Director**  
**Office of Higher Education**  
**before the**  
**Program Review and Investigations Committee**  
**February 27, 2015**

Good afternoon Co-Chairman Fonfara, Co-Chairman Carpino, Ranking Members Kissell and Mushinsky, and distinguished members of the Committee. For the record, I am Jane A. Ciarleglio, Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education. I come before you today to discuss Raised Bill No. 973 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS. I will keep my formal remarks brief.

First, in light of our regulatory oversight and role of consumer protection, we thank the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) for the opportunity to participate in this study and provide feedback on the Higher Education Certificate Programs Report. Our office is grateful for the thorough work that went into creating this report and appreciate the thoughtful and open conversations that the committee has undertaken.

Like you, we know how important it is both to the Connecticut workforce and of course to the students to have high quality certificate programs that provide qualified graduates entry level positions in Connecticut's workforce. In most cases, these certificate programs establish a

foundation for a profession or career ladder, so quality program content is important and further supports the role of consumer protection.

Since many certificate programs lead to licensure in a profession, it is critical to make sure every program's curriculum provides the knowledge necessary to pass any exam needed for licensure in order to work in the field. We support the random audits of programs to ensure curriculum integrity and currently evaluate our non-accredited post-secondary career schools for this reason.

We appreciate the issues brought out in the study and feel strongly that the more information a consumer has in making a potential career or educational choice, the better the result.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you. I would be happy to respond to questions.