



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## Office of Higher Education

Testimony

by

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Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

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Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding H.B. No. 6768 (RAISED) AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS FUNCTION AS POSTSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOLS. On July 1, 2011, the United States Department of Education revised its criteria as applied to career schools that seek to offer training to students and participate in federal financial aid. Specifically, § 600.9(a)(1)(ii)(A) of the Code of Federal Regulations requires that an institution “by name, must be approved or licensed by the State to offer programs beyond secondary education...” Modifying Connecticut’s statute to clarify that private occupational schools are postsecondary career schools would bring our state into compliance with the federal regulations, and ensure that our schools can continue to participate in federal financial aid programs for students without interruption.