



Testimony for
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
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University of New Haven

On behalf of the University of New Haven, we are submitting testimony in favor of SB 1, AN ACT CONCERNING INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC FUTURE.

The University of New Haven strongly supports SB 1. The bill seeks to, in part, support Connecticut's institutions of higher education in their work to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among students, faculty and businesses in an effort to promote economic growth in the state of Connecticut.

The University of New Haven's College of Business and Tagliatela College of Engineering would welcome the opportunity to partner with the state as we build a comprehensive, collaborative and competitive Entrepreneurship and Innovation program with a national reputation as best-in-class.

Our **comprehensive** entrepreneurship and innovation program will combine a world-class academic curriculum and state-of-the-art co-curricula programming. It will engage students at all stages of their academic preparation—from freshman to graduate students. It will offer career-long engagement to its students and supporters. It will have a commitment to research. Its academic foundation will weave in real stories from the field through case studies, guest lectures, boot camps, simulations and internships. And it will partner with regional and national entrepreneurs and innovators.

Our **collaborative** entrepreneurship and innovation program will foster continuous interaction among students, faculty and businesses within a physical space or ecosystem at the University of New Haven. It will promote continuous interaction by developing communication and leadership skills. It will provide ongoing mentoring and coaching. And it will sustain continuous interaction by providing incubator space of early stage businesses.

Our **competitive** entrepreneurship and innovation program will make the student experience real and make it matter. Students will engage in business plan contests, business development support contests, pitch contests, and the annual Hult prize competition. Each co-curricula program will offer growth opportunities through high-pressured decision-making situations.

On the co-curricula side, the University of New Haven has already launched its first ever sophomore Innovation and Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community with a start date of fall 2016. We have successfully launched a three-day start-up boot-camp program. We are planning a campus-wide business plan competition for the 2016-2017 academic year. And we have partnered with the Engineering and Science University Magnet School (ESUMS), located on the University of New Haven campus, to provide co-curricular business plan programming.

It is certainly going to be an exciting time to be an entrepreneur and innovator at the University of New Haven. With the passing of SB 1, the new entity known as ImpaCT will be an important resource to advance entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of New Haven and its surrounding ecosystem, while simultaneously renewing and diversifying the economic engine of the state of Connecticut.

Thank you.