

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, AND ARCHITECTURE

Louis Manzione, Dean

Testimony for
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee from
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On behalf of the University of Hartford I am submitting testimony in favor of SB 1, ACT CONCERNING INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC FUTURE.

SB 1 seeks to support Connecticut's institutions of higher education in their work to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty in an effort to promote economic growth in this state. The University of Hartford is already engaged extensively in the important work of innovation, entrepreneurship, and the technical skills pipeline, but we would welcome the opportunity to coordinate better with the state to elevate the visibility of that work and to form stronger partnerships within our region.

We have built extensive and productive partnerships that have strengthened the skills base of the state and its companies. These partnerships and the career readiness that they impart are an integral part of our University's Strategic Plan and the College's mission. This model of close partnering with the state's engineering firms has served us well. Our enrollment in engineering has increased by more than 70% and we provide a very large number of engineering graduates that stay in Connecticut for productive careers. We also emphasize relationships with small and medium sized engineering companies. We recognize and support the many companies that make up the manufacturing supply chain, and we have worked with them to assure that they have the skills and technology to compete in a highly competitive global environment. Finally, we encourage our students to be entrepreneurial, and we provide them with the motivation and the tools to create new businesses from their innovations.

We support SB 1 because we seek to make an even greater difference in Connecticut's economy. We have been responsive to the needs of Connecticut, but we seek even greater impact that this bill would enable us to realize. We seek support to provide the best laboratories, the best teaching technologies, and the best faculty to deliver the skills Connecticut needs to grow its economic base. We need continued and growing partnerships that align our programs with the needs of the profession and the companies. We need resources to grow entrepreneurship so that our graduates will not only work at leading companies, they will create them based on their own innovations.

We would urge legislators to support SB 1, which will support the capacity of higher education institutions to promote greater economic growth in this state.

