



University of New Haven

Office of the President

Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D.

President

Testimony for the
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Steven H. Kaplan, President
University of New Haven

For Public Hearing on February 18, 2016

On behalf of the University of New Haven, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5071, AN ACT REQUIRING CONNECTICUT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS, which has been raised to enable the state and Connecticut institutions of higher education to participate in a nation-wide state authorization reciprocity agreement.

A consortia-based approach assures compliance with emerging standards for distance learning programs across states, and eliminates redundant state-by-state reviews which now separately authorize delivery of distance learning programs by individual out-of-state institutions. State-by-state review consumes significant resources, and favors large national providers as opposed to individual institutions.

The University of New Haven has a small set of online programs, but several are in disciplines such as criminal justice, investigation, and emergency management, for which the university has a national and international reputation. These degree programs are complemented by both Connecticut and Federally funded projects in juvenile justice reform, reduction of gang violence, crime analytics, and professional development for command officers. Approval of online delivery of these programs in multiple other states is hampered by the State of Connecticut not participating in reciprocity agreements for distance learning. Both the State and its institutions of higher education have much to proudly share with the nation, and participating in reciprocity agreements makes distinctive curricula such as these at UNH more readily available across state boundaries.

Online delivery has matured over the past two decades and participation in the reciprocity agreement also reinforces adoption of best practices for online delivery. The New England region has lagged other regions of the country somewhat in adopting in developing hybrid and online programs. Participation in the nation-wide state authorization and reciprocity agreement may accelerate this delivery opportunity and quality for students across the region.

We urge passage of HB 5071 to enhance the State's accessibility for diverse educational delivery and to foster the expansion of programming from its higher education institutions onto a national platform.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven H. Kaplan", written over a horizontal line.

Steven H. Kaplan
President