



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
Office of Higher Education

Testimony  
by  
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before the  
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
Thursday, February 18, 2016

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, Senator Flexer, Representative Lopes, Senator Witkos, Representative Betts, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding H.B. No. 5072, AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

Our office is grateful for the careful work that went into this bill and we appreciate the thoughtful and open conversations and studies undertaken on this topic in prior years. As you may recall, the Office of Higher Education has consistently supported the aim of this bill in the past because, like you, we know how important it is both to Connecticut's workforce and 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.

We appreciate the issues addressed by this bill and feel strongly that the more information a consumer has in making a potential career or educational choice, the better the result. However, notwithstanding my comments here, I must be pragmatic as well. The Office of Higher Education must operate within the new realities of current staffing and resources. In light of the recent layoffs and retirements the agency experienced, as well as the budget reductions of this fiscal year, it is impossible to take on any additional responsibilities at this point in time.

Thank you.