



**Testimony of Goodwin College in Support of S.B. 24 – AAC Program
Approval for Independent Institutions of Higher Education**

**Higher Education and Employment Committee Meeting Public Hearing
Thursday, February 18, 2016**

Goodwin College, with over 3500 students, is a four year, private, non-profit institution of higher education located in East Hartford, Connecticut. Over 97% of Goodwin students are Connecticut residents who come from 136 of the state's 169 cities and towns.

Goodwin College supports Raised Bill S.B. 24 which would eliminate the requirement for Connecticut's private institutions of higher education to submit new and revised academic programs to the Office of Higher Education for approval.

Goodwin College, like most private colleges and universities in Connecticut are accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges Inc. (NEASC). Accordingly all new and revised academic programs for Goodwin are reviewed and approved by that Regional Accreditation Body.

Therefore additional approval of such programs by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education is not only redundant and unnecessary but inefficient as well.

In addition to the noted NEASC program approval, given Goodwin's high concentration of Nursing, Health and Natural Science curriculum, as well its Early Childhood Education offerings, the college also seeks and maintains accreditation by the following nationally recognized agencies, commissions, bureaus and councils:

- Accreditation Commission on Education for Nursing (ACEN).
- Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).
- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).
- Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)
- National Associations for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

In summary, given that programs offered by Goodwin College and other Connecticut institutions of higher education are concurrently subject to review by the above noted organizations, it is felt that additional review by the Office of Higher Education is unnecessary.

Goodwin urges that the Higher Education and Employment Committee look positively on this bill with a Joint Favorable vote.

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