



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 SB 24, AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAM APPROVAL FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, which has been raised to not require approval by the Office of Higher Education of new and revised academic programs proposed by independent institutions of higher education.

We have appreciated the expedited review timelines by CT OHE that have been in effect for that past several years, but preparation for state review still consumes considerable time and resources within independent institutions. The required state approval step in Connecticut is not present for independent higher education in most states, and adds cost and delays to curriculum innovation and reform. Added costs and reviews diminish the competitive opportunity for independent institutions like the University of New Haven to attract students from other states to Connecticut.

Provisions in SB 24 which require independent institutions to be regionally accredited and operating in CT for at least 10 years, as well as eligible to participate in Title IV financial aid programs, assure compliance with increasingly rigorous Federal quality assurance initiatives. Annual updates to OHE also provide the enrollment trend and outcomes data by program which is needed for employment outcomes and labor analyses.

In addition, growing participation with program accreditation by professional accrediting groups for business, engineering, health & human services, and other professional disciplines adds focused quality and compliance reviews for an expanded number of programs. Third-party review is now well established across the faculty and academic administration. The current state approval process can be redundant and sometimes in conflict with these other reviews.

We urge passage of SB 24 to expedite the advancement of new degree programs and curricula within the State of Connecticut.

Thank you,

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

Steven H. Kaplan
President