

**Statement for the
Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee
Frontier Communications Corporation**

February 23, 2016

On behalf of Frontier Communications Corporation, I am writing to register our support for SB 24, *An Act Concerning Program Approval for Independent Institution of Higher Education*, which seeks to exempt independent institutions of higher education in Connecticut that meet specific standards from the academic program approval process administered by the Office of Higher Education.

Headquartered in Norwalk, Frontier has called Connecticut home for over 70 years. During that time, Frontier has grown to become a national leader in providing communications services to residential and business customers over our fiber-optic rich network, including video, high-speed internet, advanced voice and digital protection solutions. Our approximately 18,600 employees are based entirely in the United States, with over 3,000 in Connecticut.

To succeed in today's highly competitive digital marketplace, Frontier must be able to recruit top talent. As a national organization with a footprint covering nearly 30 states, Frontier has access to virtually every labor market in the United States as we seek to identify qualified candidates for our corporate and regional offices.

The work currently being done by the college and universities here in Connecticut to prepare students for employment is extremely important to the business community. Even more critical is the work that these institutions do to develop and implement programs that will prepare students for the jobs that businesses offer today and in the future. We count on these institutions to seek our input and quickly develop new programs to respond effectively to the needs of the business industry in this state. Unfortunately, the regulatory burden placed on institutions attempting to create new, advanced programs stifle their ability to be nimble, flexible and responsive. These regulations mean that it can take months – even years in some cases – for new programs to finally be offered.

As Frontier continues to grow, we look to our institutions of higher education to grow with us. These institutions, particularly those located in Fairfield County, assist us in developing post-secondary programs that will lead to new jobs to help expand Connecticut's economy. Removing this regulatory barrier—by passing SB 24—will help this happen.

Thank you,



Daniel J. McCarthy