



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Office of Higher Education

Testimony

by

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before the

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

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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 S.B. No. 97 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENT PROTECTION ACCOUNT. This bill is technical in nature, and completes an adjustment made during the 2015 session by including text inadvertently omitted. We support this bill.

Private occupational schools currently pay four tenths of one percent (.004%) of their tuition revenue into the Private Occupational School Student Protection Account. The account may be drawn upon in the event a school closes abruptly, without following Connecticut law, leaving students with no avenue of recourse to recoup tuition dollars paid to the school for instruction that was not received. The clarifications in this bill specify that online schools only include Connecticut students in their calculation, and streamline the payment formula to ensure that the fund is adequately sustained to assist students when needed.

These changes were advanced last year as part of a proposal to address the fact that the Office of Higher Education now has oversight of hairdresser and barber schools in Connecticut. This new jurisdiction comes with a significant increase in students for whom the Office handles consumer protection responsibilities. Thank you.