



Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

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Testimony

Submitted By

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S.B. 147, An Act Assisting Students without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College.

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today on *S.B. 147, An Act Assisting Students without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College.*

The University of Connecticut supports all of our students and seeks to ensure that a quality, affordable education remains accessible here, regardless of immigration or economic status. We therefore are fully supportive of S.B. 147 and its intent to provide financial assistance to students impacted by the proposed legislation. We recognize that current statute restricts our ability to provide financial assistance to students enrolled in the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals Program, which may limit access to higher education in our state.

While we have not conducted a full financial analysis of the impact of offering financial assistance to a new population of students, we are aware that, if approved, the legislation will likely increase the financial demand for an already limited pool of existing funds available to students. In addition to supporting a revision to statute which would allow our institution to provide financial assistance to students impacted by the proposed legislation, we are interested in collaborating with the General Assembly to address the financial commitment that S.B. 147 would require.

We are fully supportive of proposals that allow us to provide an affordable pathway to higher education for undocumented immigrant students through need-based and merit-based institutional aid. Again, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony and for your continued support of the University of Connecticut.