



ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

Testimony for the
Education Committee
ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE
March 7, 2016

On behalf of Albertus Magnus College I am submitting testimony in support of two bills, **S.B. 382 AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS** and **H.B. 5550 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES**.

S.B. 382 AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS seeks to require the Department of Education and the Office of Higher Education to enter into an agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation for the purposes of accrediting and establishing standards for teacher preparation programs in the state. In recognition of the need for high quality standards for educator preparation programs within the state of Connecticut and the existence of an aligned system for program approval and national accreditation, we support the raised bill that Connecticut enters into a partnership agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). This arrangement will provide guidance and support for continuous program improvement and sustain existing practices outlined in our CT-NCATE Partnership agreement which expires in December 2016.

Each of the approved educator preparation programs in Connecticut is unique, differentiated by mission and adaptation to regional needs. Given these differences in programs, the conditions for state approval and national accreditation should promote program effectiveness without jeopardizing individuality and innovation.

For educator preparation programs, we at Albertus Magnus College support the state's entering into a partnership with CAEP that will promote excellence through an evidence-based, continuous improvement program that will advance our ability to prepare educators who are able to effectively educate P-12 students, and to make positive contributions to the schools and communities in which they work.

We respectfully ask the Committee to amend the bill language slightly to include private institutions and alternative providers as well as the public institutions as we currently go through a similar review process by the State Department of Education.

In addition, we at Albertus Magnus College strongly support Sections 2 and 3 of **H.B. 5550 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES** which seeks to extend the implementation date to 2018 for the requirement that an individual must possess a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined by the State Board of Education, related to such teacher's certification endorsement area.

The deadline extension is critical for two principal reasons: although the State Board of Education recently resolved that the master's degree should include 15 credits of content/subject coursework, the

Board has not yet determined with clarity the guidelines to define what is an “appropriate subject matter area.” Faculty and administrators will need until July 1, 2018 to restructure its programs to meet the new law and Board policy, and also to enable master’s candidates already enrolled in our current master’s program to complete the requirements for the degree in which they currently are enrolled. New programs at Albertus Magnus College must be approved by faculty and administrators within the College community, in addition to meeting new CT laws and State Department of Education policies, and these procedural steps take some time.

Thank you for your consideration of both of these important bills.

Respectfully,



Dr. Joan E. Venditto
Director of Education Programs
Albertus Magnus College
New Haven, CT
jvenditto@albertus.edu
203-773-8087