

Yale SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Office of the Associate Dean

February 29, 2016

Dear Members of the Higher Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Michael Yaffe, I am from West Hartford. I am Associate Dean of the Yale School of Music.

I stand in support of SB 147: AN ACT ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF COLLEGE. This bill would equalize access to institutional financial aid at Connecticut public universities and colleges to all students regardless of immigration status.

At the School of Music, our Music in Schools Initiative works closely with music students from the New Haven Public Schools, including many individuals who don't have legal immigration status. We and the teachers of the New Haven public schools work hard to prepare these students to achieve in school, and they deserve support to attend college.

I have personally gotten to know some of these young students closely, and they have the same hopes and dreams as legal residents. Simply because they do not have the proper papers should not prevent us from helping them. They will graduate from college and become great residents of our region. Several of the students we have worked with want to become teachers so they can bring education to more students like them. This is such an admirable desire, and our state should do all that is possible to help them accomplish this goal.

I support SB 147 and hope the committee will vote favorably on this bill.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Yaffe

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