



Testimony and Resolution in Support of HB 7000 An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid & SB 17 An Act Assisting Students without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College

Senator Bye, Senator Linares, Representative Haddad, Representative Staneski, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

Whereas, the UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is the exclusive bargaining agent for faculty, researchers, and athletic staff at the State's Flagship University;

Whereas, UConn-AAUP and our national affiliate AAUP have a long tradition of safeguarding academic freedom and shared governance while ensuring that higher education remains a common and public good;

Whereas, UConn-AAUP members inspire and train UConn students to become thought leaders, businesspersons, scientists, teachers, and workers in the State of Connecticut. They teach students, from all backgrounds that are excited and committed to their educational pursuits;

Whereas, UConn-AAUP affirms that all of Connecticut's students should have access to higher education regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, or immigration status;

Whereas, UConn-AAUP believes that equalizing access to institutional aid is an investment in Connecticut's future and that providing access to institutional aid will help undocumented Connecticut students afford college:

- Institutional aid is money that UConn sets aside from tuition payments in order to support other students who have demonstrated financial need
- Undocumented Connecticut students contribute to institutional aid through their tuition, but are currently precluded from receiving this under the existing law
- Since undocumented students are paying into the "institutional aid" pool, they should be eligible to receive it;

Whereas, the passage of HB 7000 An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid & SB 17 An Act Assisting Students without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College would create educational opportunities for some of most disadvantaged students while increasing the likelihood of college completion;

Therefore, be it resolved, UConn-AAUP stands in strong support in the passage of HB 7000 "An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid" & SB 17 "An Act Assisting Students without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College," and urges expanding access to institutional aid to all students.