



Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Anna Malavisi, and I currently reside in Ridgefield. I am an Assistant Professor at Western Connecticut State University in the Department of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. I stand in support of HB5031. This bill will equalize access to student-generated, institutional aid in CT public colleges and Universities for all CT's students regardless of immigration status.

I am writing on behalf of all undocumented students who are engaged in undergraduate study. In my classroom, I do not discriminate between documented or undocumented students. I work on the assumption that if a student is in my class, they are there because they chose to be. Hence, it is my responsibility to ensure that their experience is a worthwhile one. However, I also know that some of the students in my classes are undocumented but dare not disclose their status for fear of the consequences this may have. I also know that many of these students struggle financially, which of course only places many other undue stresses on them.

Connecticut must pass legislation that gives equal access to student-generated, institutional financial aid for all students regardless of their immigration status. Undocumented students should be eligible for institutional aid just as any other student is who pays tuition. There is nothing in the Connecticut statutes and regulations that prevent undocumented students from accessing this aid.

All students should have equal access to higher education regardless of socioeconomic or immigration status. This bill would equalize access to student-generated institutional aid and end Connecticut's "All pay and NO aid" financial aid system for immigrant students. As an educator in the public education system, I am committed to providing an equal standard of education to all students. It is time now that those in public office also give this same opportunity.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.  
I support HB5031 and hope the committee will vote favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Malavisi", followed by a horizontal line.

Anna Malavisi, Ph.D.  
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Department of Philosophy & Humanistic Studies  
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