



Southern Connecticut
State University

Tracy M. Tyree, Ph.D.
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

February 13, 2018

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

I am writing to indicate my strong support for HB5031. As the Vice President for Student Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University and a resident of Wallingford, I am very committed to providing access to higher education in the state of Connecticut. We have many students at Southern who would benefit from access to institutional financial aid. We hear story after story of students who are not able to pursue their college education because they do not have the requisite funds to afford a public higher education. Connecticut must pass legislation that equalizes access to institutional financial aid for all students regardless of immigration status.

As I am sure you know, all students contribute to institutional financial aid through their tuition payments, but undocumented immigrant students are unable to benefit from this aid. This is unjust and it is time for the Connecticut legislature to take action! These students are contributing members of our campus community, their local communities and the state of Connecticut. Earning a college degree will help them to impact their communities in even more significant ways.

Please provide your support for HB 5031. This legislation will provide fair and equitable access to institutional aid to which undocumented immigrant students contribute and deserve their share.

Thank you for your consideration!

Most sincerely,

Tracy M. Tyree
Vice President for Student Affairs
Southern Connecticut State University