Written Testimony by Goodwin College in Opposition to Further Funding Cuts to School Based Health Centers (SBHC) Contained in the Governor’s Proposed Biennial Budget FY20-21.

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing March 1, 2019.

Goodwin College opposes any further funding cuts to School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) as contained in the Governor’s FY20-21 Biennial Budget as we seek to expand school based health centers in our magnet schools.

In partnership with LEARN, a Regional Education Service Center (RESC) located in Old Lyme, CT, Goodwin College operates two inter-district magnet schools on its campus in East Hartford. One is the Connecticut River Academy (CTRA) High School with 477 students and the other the Riverside Magnet School (RMS) with 464 students in grade levels Pre-K through Grade 5.

While the CTRA has an SBHC, Goodwin College would welcome the opportunity to expand comprehensive, accessible, and integrated health care services to children and families at our Riverside Magnet School.

For many of these students the attention they received from school based health centers is the only medical attention they might receive at this point in their lives. Healthy students will be better learners and therefore likely to stay in school.

School Based Health Centers are an excellent, cost effective means to help children with their health issues in a place where they likely spend most of their waking hours.

Goodwin College urges the members of Appropriations Committee to maintain funding for these critical School Based Health Centers.

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