Testimony for the
Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee
HB 7410: An Act Concerning Certain Tax Recommendations of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth and Establishing a STEM Scholarship Program
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Quinnipiac University appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 7410: An Act Concerning Certain Tax Recommendations of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth and Establishing a STEM Scholarship Program. We enthusiastically support sections 33 and 34 of this bill which propose to create a $200 million scholarship fund for Connecticut students that enroll in a degree program in science, technology, engineering, math and health professions (including in-teacher prep programs in these areas).

The Quinnipiac’s graduates are grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, and they are making notable contributions across many fields including the health sciences, nursing, education, business, communications, law and, more recently, medicine and engineering. And it is agile and adaptive like few other institutions of learning. It has a bias toward action, dynamically restructuring its offerings and pedagogy around the evolving requirements of markets and professions, and partnering closely with employers who shape those requirements.

Leveraging off strengths the university already has, we see development of new specializations and credentialing in STEM fields such as the health sciences and engineering (e.g., speech pathology or biomedical engineering), as well as applications of software and artificial intelligence (e.g., adding opportunities for cybersecurity, data science and data translation credentials). The creation of a $200 million scholarship fund for Connecticut students that enroll in a degree program in science, technology, engineering, math and health professions will aid Quinnipiac in its goals of supporting the growth and development of students interested in careers in the STEM field.