I am Carmen Yiamouyiannis, a Biology Professor at Capital Community College

I grew up in the Midwest and when I moved to CT I was surprised to learn that CT had 169 towns that all had their own services, etc. This was different in the Midwest which shared resources regionally. So when I first heard about Students First Consolidation, I thought this made sense: consolidate resources, IT services, have a system wide admission policy whereby if a student is admitted to one college they are admitted to the whole community college system, etc. And Students First, yes absolutely, more academic and support resources for students, who could argue with that? However when I saw the unveiling of the plan and the many more levels of management that was proposed, I was troubled. Even before the students First plan, I was questioning whether our community colleges really need a president and several Deans, along with their staff at each college. I believed that management could have been leaner. But the proposed consolidation plan is to expand management, not shrink it! A CEO/President at each college along with several Deans/Associate Deans and right now there are 3 search committees looking for 3 regional presidents (4 colleges in each region), a whole other new level of management which will also probably include additional staff for these the regional presidents who will report to someone else at an even higher level! In my opinion, this is not Students First. I ask you, legislators, and the governor to stop this plan and form a higher education task force with legislators, educators, retired community college presidents (many of the current presidents have been appointed by Mr. Ojakian) and local business leaders to study and present options to Governor Lamont. Develop a plan with those who have expertise in higher education and a true commitment to our students. There are alternative approaches that save money and truly benefit our students of which we have about 45,000 in the community college system. Thank you.