

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6235

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE "LEARN HERE, HEAL HERE" PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/18/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

REP. LINEHAN, 103rd Dist.

REP. CONLEY, 40th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish a tax rebate program to incentivize recently graduated psychiatrists to live and offer services in Connecticut.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

- Bill has been restructured, thus all language is new language; however, the provisions of the bill remain the same

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Adam Perrin, MD, Faculty Co-Director of Student Affairs and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, UConn Health:](#)

Submitted written testimony in support. Dr. Perrin explains the economic and social benefits delivered by UConn Health over the last ten years. He says the UConn School of Medicine (SoM) is now educating more students than ever and class sizes are growing. Dr. Perrin says, "Up to 70% of SOM medical student graduates stay in state to either pursue clinical service as resident or subspecialty fellowship physicians or serve as providers in the State." The SoM developed a loan and grant program for students and funded by the SoM and philanthropy. Since 2016, eight students have received awards under this program. Dr. Perrin says, "We applaud the Committee's efforts through this bill and believe that any initiative that creates incentive for our graduates to stay in greater numbers in Connecticut will be a success."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rep. Linehan, 103rd District:

Gave oral testimony in support. Rep. Linehan expressed support for the bill and said that its need is more apparent during this Pandemic. She said, Connecticut is woefully inadequate in many aspects considering our mental health for children ... with only 37 Board-certified child psychiatrists for all of Connecticut." Rep. Linehan continues, "[Connecticut Children's Medical Center], who does suicide screening in their emergency rooms, they've now seen over a 10-point jump in the last couple of months of children who have screened positive for risk of suicide, and they're at close to 30%." She says that we were experiencing a mental health emergency before and it has only been made worse by the pandemic. This can be addressed by providing incentives for psychiatrists heal here.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Jeremy Salyer

Date: 03/30/2021