



CONNECTICUT STATE  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Testimony by Ernestine Weaver,  
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Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Before the Higher Education and  
Employment Advancement Committee  
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Good morning Senators Cassano and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyt, and members of the Committee. My name is Ernestine Weaver and I am Counsel for the Board of Regents for Higher Education. I would like to comment briefly on **SB 330: An Act Concerning the Board of Regents**.

I want to thank you for raising these technical items that simply clarify that the Board of Regents (BOR) can only appoint vice presidents for the community colleges and state universities, and not any other constituent unit of higher education that is not a part of our consolidated system, and to remove obsolete references to the Board for State Academic Awards.

The purpose of my testimony is to ask for an amendment that allows the Board of Regents central office to regain two abilities that UConn enjoys for its multiple campuses, and that were previously held by the CSU Board system office. They are: (1) to contract at the central office in situations where it makes the most financial and academic sense to do so, and (2) to establish a foundation for the benefit of the entire system.

The first issue truly is more technical. We currently do contract, with the understanding and guidance of the Attorney General's office, on behalf of our institutions. However, as we continue to look for gains that we can make as a system, and as we propose two major system-wide contracts for an IT overhaul and a facilities master planning process, ensuring that the BOR can properly execute these contracts is essential. This amendment removes any ambiguity pertaining to our ability to move forward with these items.

I would like to call your attention to a statute currently on the books that recognizes the importance of the ability of the central office to contract. Sec. 10a-89e states that "The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System shall: (1) Consolidate the purchasing process for the system at the central office; (2) expedite the purchasing process by adjusting policies and utilizing enabling technologies; and (3) redesign and train central purchasing personnel to focus on customer service, vendor management activities and the establishment of system contracts.

Second, as part of Transform CSCU 2020, we are looking to establish a Regent's Scholarship fund, to provide grants to students that graduate from a community college and transfer into one of our four-year universities. Besides rewarding committed students and ensuring they can afford to continue their education, this effort is aimed at attracting some of the 1400 students that get an associate's degree and transfer to an

institution outside of our system, and sometimes outside of our state. This amendment allows for the establishment of that foundation to support this worthy goal.

I will also commit to you that individual institution foundations will continue to do the important work they do in supporting their schools, and we hope to be able to augment their efforts in the future by promoting local campaigns, not supplanting them.

The proposed amendment appears on the next page, and I look forward to any questions you may have.

**Sec. 10a-1:** There shall be a state system of public higher education to consist of (1) The University of Connecticut and all campuses thereof, (2) the state colleges, which shall be known collectively as the Connecticut State University System, (3) the regional community-technical colleges, (4) the Board for State Academic Awards, and (5) **[the staff of the Board of Regents for Higher Education]** the Board of Regents for Higher Education consolidated system office for the regional community technical colleges, Connecticut State University System, and Charter Oak State College as established pursuant to section 10a-1a. "Constituent units" as used in the general statutes means those units in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this section. "Constituent unit" as used in chapters 47, 58, 60, 61, 62 and of the General Statutes means those units in subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this section.