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**Testimony in support of**

***SB 1250, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION***

Co-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Haddad, Ranking Members Sen. Martin and Rep. Bronko and to the members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1250, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Higher Education.

This bill, while well intended, would require all units of the state system of higher education to fully utilize Core-CT, the state's enterprise resource system that the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) administers. I believe that the goal of this legislation is to enhance state transparency and accountability, however, we can achieve those same goals just as effectively at significantly less cost.

This proposed legislation follows my office's special examination of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, particularly the system's financial policies and practices involving purchasing cards (P-Cards). Our report included at least 10 recommendations to improve policies, establish greater internal controls and strengthen transparency and accountability. One of those recommendations include requiring each unit of the state system of higher education to submit quarterly or, at a minimum, annual detailed financial and budgetary information to my office when Core-CT is not being fully utilized. This information could then be made available through OpenConnecticut, a transparency website that my office supports.

OpenConnecticut is separate and distinct from Core-CT. While a great deal of the data displayed on OpenConnecticut is received from Core-CT, there are other ways to incorporate data on the site. For example, quasi-public agencies currently provide the OSC with annual data feeds that allow the public to search all payroll and checkbook data at [Connecticut Quasi-Public Organizations on OpenConnecticut](#). The same could be made possible for the state's higher education units without requiring that the state spend tens of millions of dollars for them to fully utilize Core-CT.

In the absence of a full cost analysis, my office estimates that forcing all higher education units into fully utilizing Core-CT could cost as much as \$25 million. The expense and resources of doing this are unnecessary when more affordable alternatives are available. I strongly and respectfully encourage you to eliminate any requirement that all units fully utilize Core-CT in order to avoid unnecessary costs when there are more efficient options to ensure transparency and accountability.

Thank you. As always, my office is available to answer any questions that you may have.

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