



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 5031
An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
February 9, 2018**

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ (CTUCC) and I am writing today in support of H.B. 5031 An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid to allow students to have equal access to institutional financial aid.

I am writing on behalf of the 237 congregations and more than 67,500 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ is an immigrant welcoming denomination and we proclaim that all of God's children deserve equal rights.

As people of faith, we believe all Connecticut students deserve an equal chance to achieve their dreams. To help students achieve their dreams it is morally right to equalize access to student-generated, institutional aid in Connecticut public colleges and universities for all Connecticut students, regardless of immigration status.

All students, including undocumented immigrant students, pay into the institutional aid pool, but undocumented students do not have access to this aid. That is wrong. Undocumented students should be eligible for this aid, as all other students who pay tuition.

Attached to this testimony, please find 200 plus signatures from Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ clergy. Our clergy are standing with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and calling on Congress to reinstate DACA and commit to write and pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill this year.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of H. B. 5031

Blessings,
Michele Mudrick
(860) 796-3822
Michelem@ctuucc.org



God is still speaking,

860.233.5564 • toll free) 866.367.2822 • fax) 860.231.8111 • www.ctuucc.org