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**TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 73, An Act Concerning the Solicitation of Credit Cards to College Students and the Management of Student Credit Card Debt and House Bill 5119, An Act Concerning Institutions of Higher Education and the Solicitation of Credit Cards to College Students.

These legislative proposals restrict any college or university in Connecticut from providing student names and addresses to credit card issuers.

Too many students graduate from college mired in credit card debt and student loan obligation. Currently, numerous school programs seek to raise awareness and provide information about financial responsibility. Even so, parents and schools must do more to better educate students about the perils and pitfalls of credit card debt.

Ironically, some colleges and universities aid and abet this credit card crisis by supplying student names and addresses to credit card companies and profiting from student use of credit cards, earning thousands of dollars while students sink deeper into debt.

Senate Bill 73 and House Bill 5119 reestablish the correct priorities for these colleges and universities -- the welfare of their students rather than profit.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of these legislative proposals.