



342 North Main Street, Suite 202, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117  
Phone: (860) 236-0900 • Fax: (860) 236-0910  
[www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org)

**Written Testimony for the  
General Administration & Elections Committee  
From  
Judith B. Greiman  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
February 18, 2009**

On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), *I am submitting testimony regarding HB 5083, AAC Mail-In Voter Registration and University Introductory Packets.*

This bill requires colleges and universities to include mail voter registration application forms in enrollment packets sent to students who are eligible to enroll at such institutions. We think that all eligible students should exercise their right to vote and do much to promote this through campus events, messages and other activities.

While we believe in the cause represented by this bill, we do not believe that the bill is necessary due to federal requirements that we must currently meet. The 1998 Higher Education Act requires all postsecondary institutions to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration materials to degree and certificate seeking students who attend classes on campus. The forms must be distributed before the registration cut-off date for every federal and gubernatorial election as well as for special federal elections.

Postsecondary institutions must request registration forms from the state at least 120 days prior to the deadline for registering to vote, and the state must deliver such forms at least 60 days prior to the election. Colleges may distribute the forms in a variety of ways, and, as of August 2008, may do so via e-mail messages devoted exclusively to voter registration that contain links to the state forms.

Accordingly, we do not believe that the proposed bill is necessary at this time.

Albertus Magnus College, Connecticut College, Fairfield University, Goodwin College,  
Mitchell College, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer at Hartford, Sacred Heart University, Saint Joseph College, St. Vincent's College,  
Trinity College, University of Bridgeport, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, Wesleyan University, Yale University