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**Written Testimony for the  
Higher Education & Workforce Advancement Committee  
From  
Judith B. Greiman  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
February 10, 2009**

On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), *I am submitting testimony HB 5227, AAC Allowing Towns to Create Scholarship Funds Through Municipal Bonding.*

This bill allows municipalities to use bonding authority to fund scholarship programs for town residents who graduate from town high schools. Scholarship funds connected to graduation from specific high schools have been used successfully in other states to increase high school graduation rates and standardized test scores and to reinvigorate communities and can play a positive role in Connecticut as we enhance our K-12 curriculum and graduation requirements.

We note that the bill limits the use of the scholarship funds to public colleges and universities. We urge the Committee to amend the bill to allow an amount equal to the value of the public college tuition to be used at Connecticut's independent colleges and universities. The independent higher education sector is strong in Connecticut. Of great significance is the fact that Connecticut residents make up 43% of all enrolled students attending CCIC institutions. We award 49% of all degrees granted in Connecticut, including 57% of all degrees received by minority students (four-year and above) and enroll 37% of all college students statewide including 51% of minority students attending four-year institutions. We must not leave out needy Connecticut students who wish to attend the diversity of independent colleges and universities.

We urge the Committee to support the municipal scholarship bill but to amend it to allow students to receive an amount equal to public college tuition to be used at Connecticut's independent colleges and universities.

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