



**Written Testimony for the Commerce Committee by Eugene P. Doris, Director of Athletics,  
March 16, 2010**

As a representative of Fairfield University, a private institution in the State of Connecticut, and a member of the Sports Advisory Board, I am submitting testimony regarding **SB 455, AAC the Connecticut Sports and Marketing Corporation.**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, I spoke before the Commerce Committee as part of a presentation and report to the Committee referencing the events that have been brought into the State of Connecticut by the colleges and universities within the State. I presented on behalf of both public and private institutions. The Sports Advisory Board considered various models that could be adopted to both continue and enhance Connecticut's position as a host to major collegiate events. Institutions within the State have never differentiated among themselves as being either public or private when it comes to the field of athletic competition. All of us over the years have done our best in conjunction with the NCAA, our respective conferences, and public and private venues to host major NCAA events. Most recently, in 2009 Fairfield and Yale Universities, private institutions, collaborated with Lynn Carlotto, Executive Director of The Arena at Harbor Yard, to host the NCAA Eastern Men's Ice Hockey Regional. This event achieved the highest attendance of any regional since the NCAA adopted that format.

The current draft of SB455 does not include representation from Connecticut's private colleges on the Sports and Marketing Corporation Board. I believe that was probably an oversight and that the good will and cooperation that has brought us to this point would be less than it could be if a voice from private institutions were not included as part of Board membership. I urge you to add representatives from private colleges and universities to the Board. This would be consistent with the philosophy of the General Assembly when it created the Sports Advisory Board in 2008.

In the deliberations of the Sports Advisory Board subsequent to the February 9<sup>th</sup> hearing, various sports commissions were examined. It was noted that the establishment of a 501(c)6 component is essential for such commissions to achieve their goals. A 501(c)3 designation for the creation of a foundation is an important component as well. Unfortunately, if the Connecticut Sports and Marketing Corporation were designated just as a 501(c)3 alone it would be counter to its mission. I would urge you to consider establishing the Connecticut Sports and Marketing Corporation as a 501(c)6 with a foundation component as a 501(c)3.