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**Testimony for the
Commerce Committee
From
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Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
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On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony on two bills before you today. While we are generally supportive of these bills, we urge the Committee members to revise these two bills in a way that will leverage the important work that a number of the Connecticut independent colleges and universities are doing in this sector.

S.B. 1171: AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS

CCIC supports this bill but cautions the Committee from narrowing the Board's focus to only those private colleges or universities "with a major research facility." Some of the independent colleges in Connecticut that do not have a major research facility are heavily involved in the technology transfer arena and are highly responsive to regional technology needs and corporate partners. The University of Hartford is one example. It demonstrated its capacity to be involved with such an effort when it was awarded a \$2.4 million federal grant last February for research on small autonomous aerial vehicles, often referred to as UAVs, to help the U.S. Army develop the technologies needed to create a new generation of small systems that will have the ability to transform into autonomous (unmanned) vehicles during flight. There are many more examples in the sector. We hope you will open the legislation to all interested participants.

S.B.1174: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS FACTORY BOARD.

Similarly, CCIC is concerned that the scope of S.B. 1174 does not include adequate participation from the independent college sector, beyond their law schools, given all the work that they are already doing in this area. The independent colleges in this state award 70% of the degrees earned in Engineering and Related Technology and 82% of the degrees earned in Computer and Information Science. In addition, a number of the independent colleges are actively working to support new technology-based businesses. For example, the University of Bridgeport runs Ctech IncUBator in collaboration with Connecticut Innovations, Inc. This technology business incubator was created to support the development of new technology businesses, create jobs and spur regional economic development. In addition, Yale's Office of Cooperative Research helps to facilitate the incubation of local companies based on technology licensed from Yale. In the last ten years, OCR has helped Yale scientists to found more than 40 companies that have in turn attracted more than \$450 million in financing. In addition, the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute (YEI) is an innovative program that helps Yale undergraduate and graduate students execute business plans for new ventures. In the last three years, YEI has supported the formation and growth of over 40 student-founded ventures, which have raised over \$20 million of outside investment capital.

The expertise of the faculty involved in these programs should be included in the efforts proposed under in these bills.

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