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Written Testimony for the Education Committee
By
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On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony to express concern over **Raised Bill 6498, AAC School Districts**, which seeks to delay by two years, until the class of 2020, the enhanced high school graduation requirements adopted last year through Public Act 10-111.

At a time when Connecticut continues to have the largest achievement gap in the country and more of its students are entering college in need of serious remediation than ever before, it seems counterintuitive for the state to further delay addressing these problems and continue the status quo in our public schools for another two years.

Young people tend to achieve what's expected of them. The problem is, we're just not asking enough. According to a recent poll, 88 percent of students said they would work harder if their schools demanded more of them, set higher standards and raised expectations. Connecticut must set high standards for our students, their schools and families and provide the tools necessary for success.

Other states have been bold in their responses to this challenge. Twenty states and the District of Columbia have established requirements that all high school graduates must complete a college- and career ready curriculum. Five other states, including Massachusetts and New York, have outlined new graduation requirements to establish new rigorous high school requirements at the college- and career ready level. Connecticut, known for its highly educated workforce, will only continue to lag behind other states if this bill is adopted and the new requirements are delayed another two years.