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**Testimony for the
Higher Education & Workforce Advancement 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 opposing two bills before you today.**

HB 5241, AAC Students of Public Institutions of Higher Education Living Off Campus

This bill requires that campuses impose the same regulatory requirements and penalties on off-campus students renting or leasing housing from public institutions of higher education as those imposed on students living on campus. Although the bill as written does not impact the independent college sector, I have been told that legislators intend to make this apply to all colleges and universities in Connecticut and felt that I should comment.

I have surveyed campus representatives and find that there is no difference in how students are treated in my sector. The schools apply the same set of standards of conduct for all resident students regardless of whether they live in owned or leased housing. As noted by several representatives, the student conduct code applies to all students at all times, wherever they physically may be or reside. While there may be less “supervision” in non-dormitory style housing, the standards of conduct – and the consequences for misconduct – are no different. Additionally, in many cases of legal misconduct occurring off-campus where a student is cited by the police for something like underage drinking, the student is subject to disciplinary action from the university in addition to whatever legal ramifications there may be.

We do not think the bill is needed for our sector.

HB 5415, AA Requiring the Informed Consent of Prospective Athletes Being Recruited to Institutions of Higher Education

This bill requires athletic coaches involved in recruiting athletes to disclose medical, scholarship and transfer information to athletes who are being recruited. We oppose this bill because of the strict requirements set by the National College Athletic Association regarding the rules of recruitment.

Each athletic division has its own manual that covers transfer, insurance and scholarship along with a myriad of other things. The Division I manual is 434 pages and is quite specific about all manner of activity that may and

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



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may not occur during the recruitment process. The other divisions have similarly detailed manuals. Additionally, the various athletic conferences have detailed rules and both entities monitor compliance with the rules. We do not want Connecticut schools to be in a situation where they face different policies or policies that are in conflict with NCAA regulations.

On the specifics of the bill, students at private colleges in Connecticut are required to purchase or show evidence of medical insurance coverage. Additionally, many, if not all, of the schools also have athletic accident insurance and the NCAA has a catastrophic insurance policy that is free of charge for the student-athlete. Student-athletes are given information on the various coverage requirements and availabilities. It would be extremely difficult to estimate what potential costs a student-athlete might incur without having full knowledge of both the insurance coverage of the student and the vast range of possible injuries.

While many schools do not give out athletic scholarships, those that do are governed by a strict set of rules outlined by the NCAA. These rules outline both what kinds of scholarships are acceptable and when they can be given out as well as how students must be informed of scholarship requirements.

Transfer information is similarly governed by NCAA and conference regulations. All of this information is web-accessible. Recruiters are monitored closely on the types of communications that they have with student-athletes. At least one of the Athletic Directors in my sector noted that it would be highly inappropriate to discuss transfer with a student before the student has matriculated at an institution. He and others pointed to the monitoring process that exists on all NCAA and conference rules.

This bill would complicate an already highly regulated area.