



21 Talcott Notch Road, Suite 1, Farmington, Connecticut 06032  
Phone: (860) 678-0005 • Fax: (860) 678-0006  
www.theccic.org

Written Testimony for the Appropriations Committee  
From  
Judith B. Greiman  
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 regarding **HB 5339, AA Extending the Reporting Requirements for and Expanding the Membership of the Task Force to Study the Distribution of State Funds to Municipalities**. In addition to extending the time for the task force to study the distribution of state funds to municipalities, the bill expands the membership of the task force by adding the chief executives of the Connecticut Hospital Association and the Council of Small Towns.

***Given the fact that private college and university property is a significant part of the overall PILOT program, we request that the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges also be represented on this task force.***

Connecticut's PILOT program of grants to municipalities is an important recognition of the fact that colleges, universities and hospitals benefit everyone residing here and not just those who happen to live in the particular city or town in which such an institution is located. Although the State does not always pay the statutorily mandated amount to towns, funding levels do climb higher with the addition of the Pequot funds that are distributed according to the PILOT formula. Most states have no such funding mechanism for towns that host colleges and hospitals. Connecticut, however, goes the extra mile in providing revenue to towns in recognition of the statewide benefits provided by these institutions.

Colleges and universities are just the kind of partners most towns seek to have. They are usually the largest employers in a town and they open their ball fields, meeting rooms and lecture halls to town residents. They also open their museums to public school students each year along with theatrical and musical performances, host community arts and music events and bring visitors from out of state to town. College and university students volunteer in area schools, health and social service agencies and, in many towns, the colleges invest in key downtown properties to bring jobs and taxes to the area. Connecticut's private colleges and universities are true community partners. We would like to be represented on this task force as it considers the distribution of state money to towns.

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