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Written Testimony for the Public Health Committee
From
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On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony on **HB 5514, AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES**. Section 22 of this bill requires institutions of higher education to develop and implement a policy concerning the availability and use of automatic external defibrillators (“AED’s”) during intercollegiate sport practice, training and competition. CCIC does not oppose this bill but requests minor clarifications on two matters to ensure proper implementation upon passage.

First, the bill requires that the institutions “provide and maintain in a central location on the premises of the athletic department at least one automatic external defibrillator.” However, “premises of the athletic department” is defined to include those facilities used for “intercollegiate sport practice, training or competition and may include, but need not be limited to, an athletic building or room, gymnasium, athletic field or stadium.” Many institutions of higher education have athletic facilities scattered across campus. It would be helpful for the bill to clarify whether institutions must maintain multiple AED’s in a central location at each facility or whether, at a minimum, one AED must be located on campus in a location central to all of the athletic facilities.

Second, the bill requires that the insitutions “make such central location known and accessible to employees and student-athletes of such institution of higher education during all hours of intercollegiate sport practice, training and competition.” As written, it is unclear whether institutions of higher education would be required to transport the AED to intercollegiate competitions away from campus. The devices are not easily transportable and, to the extent that the schools are traveling in-state, the visiting institution will be required to have an AED on site, per the requirements of this bill. A clarification noting that this requirement only applies to events held on campus, would be helpful.