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**Written Testimony for the
Education Committee
Judith B. Greiman
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
March 15, 2013**

On behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony in favor of **HB 6624, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes** as sections 3, 4, and 5 relate to the development of a state longitudinal data system.

Pursuant to section 10a-55j of the Connecticut General Statute, CCIC's member institutions are currently required to track state-assigned student identifiers for all Connecticut public high school graduates that enroll in their institutions. Although there has been much work done to link the data systems of the Connecticut Board of Regents and the State Department of Education in an effort to report outcomes related to college attendance and degree completion, there was never a process or plan in place to do the same for those Connecticut students that enroll in CCIC member institutions.

Given that CCIC member institutions award nearly half of the bachelor's degrees earned in this state, our Board of Directors voted recently to have me secure funding to build a longitudinal data base that would be run by CCIC and have operability to link to the other state agency systems. They supported this vote with some seed money to hire a consultant to work with campus institutional research staff to flesh out the key issues, research questions and data elements. Since that time, CCIC has been working with staff at the Connecticut Board of Regents and others to begin preparations to build this database. We believe that creating a data warehouse for private college students that has the capacity to link to K-12 and labor data will benefit the state, the region, our member institutions, and the association in a variety of ways and will be a key tool in helping to assess outcomes at both the K-12 and post-secondary levels.

While CCIC member institutions are willing to participate in this effort, we would ask that the Education Committee consider adding the following language to HB 6624 to provide CCIC and its member institutions immunity if a data breach involving our data occurs at the state level. The language proposed below has been reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's office and is similar to language adopted in other states in which the non-profit, private institutions of higher education are contributing data to the state's longitudinal system.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Albertus Magnus College, Connecticut College, Fairfield University, Goodwin College, Mitchell College, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer at Hartford, Sacred Heart University, St. Vincent's College, Trinity College, University of Bridgeport, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, University of Saint Joseph, Wesleyan University, Yale University

Proposed Language:

Disclosure of student data and records by private colleges and universities.

When the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC) or any of its member institutions is asked to provide student data or records containing information that is confidential under federal or state law, including personally identifiable information as defined in the regulations implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 34 C.F.R. 99.3, and does provide such data or records, to any local school administrative unit or any State agency, including the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education, the University of Connecticut, and the Connecticut Office of Higher Education, pursuant to the terms of a written agreement with such local school administrative unit or State agency, neither CCIC nor its member institutions shall be held liable for any breach of confidentiality, use, retention, or destruction of such student data or records that results from the actions or omissions of the local school administrative unit or State agency or of persons provided access to the student data or records by those entities.