

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION STATEMENT  
ON HB 6605, AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY OF EXPENSES**

**March 19, 2013**

The Freedom of Information Commission submits this statement in support of House Bill 6605 which would increase transparency in public institutions of higher education by prohibiting unvouchered expenses.

Specifically, the proposal requires each constituent unit of the state system of public higher education, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §10a-1,<sup>1</sup> to document every expenditure made by such constituent unit at the time the expenditure is made. The proposal also requires that documentation of such expenditures be made available for public inspection upon request in accordance with the FOI Act.

At the end of 2012, it was reported in the media that the presidents of three Connecticut State Universities received unvouchered expense accounts in the amount of \$25,000 per year to spend without having to provide any documentation. In addition, it was reported that the former president of Connecticut's Board of Regents for Higher Education, who received a base salary of more than \$377,000, also received an unvouchered expense account in the amount of approximately \$25,000 per year.

The FOI Commission believes strongly that government expenditures, including compensation and reimbursements paid to top officials in the Connecticut State University system, are clearly of public concern (especially during a period of fiscal crisis in the state) and deserve public scrutiny. House Bill 6605 makes such expenditures public and advances and promotes accountability in government spending.

For the above reasons, the Freedom of Information Commission strongly supports HB 6605.

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<sup>1</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. §10a-1 provides that: "There shall be a state system of public higher education to consist of (1) The University of Connecticut and all branches thereof, (2) the state colleges, which shall be known collectively as the Connecticut State University System, (3) the regional community-technical colleges, (4) the Board for State Academic Awards, and (5) the staff of the Department of Higher Education as established pursuant to section 10a-5. 'Constituent units' as used in the general statutes means those units in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this section."