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Public Hearing - February 10, 2015  
Senate Bill 861

Members of the Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee

***Senate Bill 861 -- AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS  
CHECKS AND DISCIPLINE OF FACULTY MEMBERS OF INSTITUTIONS OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION.***

**The Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges (the 4Cs)** is a labor union representing community college professors, librarians, counselors and non-managerial administrators. We certainly support what we believe is the intended purpose of Senate Bill 861--to ensure that dangerous people are not teaching our college students. However, we respectfully state that the bill as drafted is too broad and may unfairly punish and exclude high-quality professors who are seeking promotions.

SB 861 seems to provide that a professor applying for a promotion could be disciplined or terminated for ***any criminal conduct*** by the professor while s/he was employed by the college. It is possible that a jay-walking ticket that a professor obtained 15 years in the past when s/he first started teaching at the college could be considered "any criminal conduct" since the jay-walking statute is contained in the "Crimes" sections of our statutes in Title 53 – section 53-182.

We respectfully state that the *criminal conduct* that could be used to discipline or terminate a professor should be limited to serious crimes (i.e. felonies) committed recently, rather than minor infractions, past or present.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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Lobbyist for the 4Cs