



Testimony of Goodwin College in Opposition to Raised Bill 7037, AAC a Municipal Option to Impose an Admission Surcharge on Events Promoted by a Private Institution of Higher Education

Goodwin College, a private non-profit institution of higher education, located in East Hartford, CT with over 3,500 students coming from 132 Connecticut cities and towns opposes Raised Bill No. 7037, AAC a Municipal Option to Impose an Admission Surcharge on Events Promoted by a Private Institution of Higher Education.

While the current details of the raised bill are unclear, the concept of adding costs in the form of a tax surcharge will be a burden and discourage potential funders from attending such events. All of Goodwin College events open to the public where a fee is charged are held to raise funds that will help our needy students, initiate, continue and complete their college education making them a viable contributor to the Connecticut economy. In many cases their college education will take them off state aid.

Goodwin has not raised its tuition in over five years in an effort to make college affordable for our students. Fund raising events are one of the means Goodwin uses to supplement our students' education tuition.

Goodwin College is the second highest source of tax revenue in the Town of East Hartford. Considering real annual property taxes paid totaling some \$327,549 and CT State PILOT Funds received due to Goodwin's presence, the Town of East Hartford collected approximately \$894,877 in tax revenue in 2014. Among other town contributions Goodwin donated school back packs, landscaping for town properties, milling and paving town streets and free adult education to the town's senior citizens.

It is also disconcerting that only private institutions of higher education are singled out leaving public colleges and universities free to raise funds unencumbered by the noted surcharge.

Goodwin would encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to find alternative means to help Connecticut Cities and Towns address the costs of running their municipalities.

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