



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SANCHEZ
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4018
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Bobby.Sanchez@cga.ct.gov

VICE CHAIR
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony of State Representative Robert Sanchez
To the Higher Education & Advancement Committee, in support of: House Bill 5420, An
Act Concerning Eliminating College Application Fees for Connecticut Residents.

Public Hearing February 26, 2015

Good afternoon, Chairman Bartolomeo and Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5420, AN ACT ELIMINATING COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS.

The need for this bill came to my attention, because there are a number of Institutions of Higher Education that are charging a fee for applying for admission to a public institution of higher education in this state for Connecticut residents. These application fee charges are charged by both four year-institutions and for two-year institutions. The application fees range from \$20 for Community Colleges to \$50 at State Universities and \$70 for the University of Connecticut.

According to College Board, which is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity, the application fee prohibits future students from applying to schools they might otherwise be able to afford. College board is one of many not for profit organizations that is distributing application fee waivers in order to take the financial burden off of perspective college students and for the college application process to be more affordable for eligible students.

Our statutes must ensure that Connecticut students are afforded their right to an education without additional fees just for applying to their perspective college. The enactment of this legislation will help to ensure that no Institution of Higher Education will charge application fees for Connecticut residents.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration of this bill.