



University of New Haven

Connecticut General Assembly
Higher Education Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

March 11, 2015

Dear Legislator,

I am writing in regards to HB 6845 which statutorily seeks to remove the Connecticut independent colleges and universities from the Connecticut Governor's Scholarship program on a prospective basis. Although I am well aware of the fiscal crisis that the state is facing, this is not the time to be removing any student's access to need based financial aid programs. Since the program can only be awarded to Connecticut residents it is in the state's best interest to invest in the education of its future, and in some cases current workforce. For many students the ability to receive the Connecticut Governor's Scholarship makes the dream of attending a private institution possible.

At the University of New Haven the Connecticut Governor's Scholarship is an important part of our student's financial aid package. The state funds are awarded in addition to the funds the university offers so that the student receives a true benefit in having the funding. In 2014-15 UNH offered Connecticut residents over \$19,000,000 in need and merit based financial aid. We are investing in our state residents and view the Connecticut Governor's Scholarship program as our partner in retaining our best and brightest.

Our participation in the scholarship program also translates into less loan indebtedness for our students. Over four years a recipient of the annual \$3000 Connecticut Governor's Scholarship will borrow \$12,000 less in educational loans. This is a significant savings to a family and for many students is the deciding factor to enroll at UNH.

By eliminating private institutions from participating in the Connecticut Governor's Scholarship program you will be limiting student's educational options and in some cases eliminating their freedom to choose where they attend college. It is my hope that HB 6845 will not pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Flynn".

Karen Flynn
Director of Financial Aid