



State of Connecticut  
SENATE

**SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN**  
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FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2016

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today in support of SB 270, **An Act Making The Budgets Of The University Of Connecticut, The Connecticut State University System And The Regional Community-Technical College System Available Online.**

As I'm sure you are aware, Freedom of Information determined that the UConn trustees violated open-meeting laws when they held a 90-minute meeting to discuss the school's budget last June.

This meeting was attended, in private, by 14 trustees and 19 senior UConn officials. University President, Susan Herbst, was also in attendance.

After this meeting took place, the full board of trustees held an open session. They then approved UConn's budget for 2015-2016 without public discussion.

As an institution that receives more than a billion dollars in taxpayer money, its major budget decisions should not be made behind closed doors.

The public has the right to see how their taxpayer money is being spent, and this includes how our state universities decide to allocate it.

This legislation helps shed a light on what our state universities are allocating their money on by making their budgets available online.

Transparency and open government are key components in keeping government accountable, and building trust with our constituents.

I support this legislation, because it reinforces the goal of a transparent and open government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael A. McLachlan  
State Senator – 24<sup>th</sup> District