

Testimony of Tom Swan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Before the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

In Opposition to HB 5071 AA Requiring Connecticut to Participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Regarding Distance Learning Programs.

Representative Willis, Senator Bartolomeo and other members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group. I want to start my testimony by thanking you for your efforts to address college affordability and the quality of higher education in Connecticut.

Unfortunately we must oppose HB 5071 An Act Requiring Connecticut to Participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Regarding Distance Learning Programs. While we agree with the idea of figuring out ways to make access to quality education more affordable. We also believe that technological advancements will be a significant part of doing this as we go forward and that reciprocal arrangements with other institutions make sense.

However, we do not believe that there are enough protections for Connecticut students under the proposed compact and that the quality standards that Connecticut has established could also be undermined. Therefore, we urge you to reject the proposed compact until additional protections are added to SARA.

We are willing to work with you to address these issues going forward.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the people of Connecticut.