

Daniel Byrd
External Affairs Chairman
Undergraduate Student Government
University of Connecticut
SB 147
HB 5376

Hello, my name is Daniel Byrd and I am the External Affairs Committee Chairman in the Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Connecticut. I am here representing the official voice of the Student Body on SB 147 regarding institutional financial aid for undocumented students.

On December 9th, the Student Body Senate at Storrs passed legislation that was written by my committee which stated that the Student Body supports passage of any legislation by the General Assembly which works toward the goal of allowing undocumented students to access institutional financial aid. The Student Body at Storrs believes it is inherently unfair that these students pay into the pool of money for institutional financial aid, yet do not have access to that money.

The Student Body at Storrs strongly urges the committee to vote yes on this bill and bring it to a vote by both houses of the General Assembly. We believe it is crucial for these students to have access to institutional financial aid not only because it is fair, but because so many of these students need it in order for them to afford a higher education. 15% of all students', including undocumented students', tuition goes towards institutional aid, and exactly \$0 were awarded to undocumented students. We believe this is unjust, unfair, and must be changed. The Student Body does not believe we should continue to rob these students of the opportunity at an affordable education they deserve. As the Student Government's legislation says, these students are an integral

part of the University and we need to make sure that the state allows fair treatment of all students in our community.

So, again, on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Government and the Student Body at Storrs we urge you to vote yes on this bill so all students have an equal shot at an affordable education.

I am also here representing the Student Body's voice on HB 5376 regarding Affirmative Consent. While the University of Connecticut already has this important policy on our campus, the students believe it is important to make it a state standard for all institutions of higher education.

The Student Body Senate past legislation last year in support of the effort to make affirmative consent a policy on all campuses and we thank Senator Flexer and Representative Haddad for their efforts on this important issue.

The Student Body believes that we need to move from a standard where after a sexual assault has occurred, survivors must state how they resisted the assault, to the accused being asked how they obtained consent, if at all. We believe this change is a crucial part of the fight to change the narrative around sexual assault and rape.

The Undergraduate Student Government and Student Body at Storrs asks that this committee vote yes on this legislation to make sure that all institutions of higher education have the affirmative consent standard. Thank you!