



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
GENERAL BONDING SUB COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 8, 2016

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, Senator Witkos, Representative Betts, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here to testify on Senate Bill 333, **An Act Concerning The Foundation Of Constituent Units And Public Institutions Of Higher Education.**

I am appreciative of the hard work that went into this proposal, and it is moving the discussion in the right direction.

It is working to make information that is public more accessible to the citizens of Connecticut and to the legislature.

I feel, however, that to fully accomplish the goal of increasing transparency and accountability of the UConn Foundation, the foundation must be subject to Freedom of Information.

Comparing New England public university foundations, Connecticut is the only state that explicitly exempts them from FOI laws.

I have long maintained that the operations of the foundation should be open to public scrutiny because state taxpayer money is provided to the foundation on an annual basis.

In order to achieve true transparency, all payments to UConn Foundation employees and UConn employees should be subject to FOI.

Donor info (with an option to opt out from FOI), should be subject to FOI.

The UConn Foundation does great work including providing scholarships for students to attend the University of Connecticut, but if the foundation is receiving **any** payments from taxpayer money, it should be subject to our FOI laws.

It is our citizen's right to know what their taxpayer money is going towards, and this is why the UConn Foundation should be subject to FOI laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael A. McLachlan'.

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator – 24th District