

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 333,  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION OF CONSTITUENT UNITS  
AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**March 8, 2016**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission supports Raised Bill 333, and applauds the effort to provide greater transparency by: (1) requiring certain financial information of higher education foundations, including the UConn Foundation, to be delivered annually to a single location (i.e. the General Assembly); and (2) defining such information as a public record subject to disclosure under the FOI Act.

Although the FOI Commission is supportive of this proposal, it believes that the better approach to achieving greater transparency would be to explicitly define the foundations as public agencies, subject to the provisions of the FOI Act. Certain information, of course, could be excluded from mandatory disclosure.

The foundations are fund-raising vehicles, soliciting and administering millions of dollars in private gifts for the benefit of the constituent units of the state university system and UCONN. Foundations established exclusively to support public institutions should be accountable to the public.

Because Raised Bill 333 provides for greater transparency, the Commission urges its approval.

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