



HB 5114

**An Act Requiring Training for the Members of the Governing Boards of the
Institutions of Higher Education in the State**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Public Hearing

February 27, 2020

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding **HB 5114**. This bill requires training of board members responsible for governing any institution of higher education in the state.

The primary role of the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut is to set the strategic direction for the University and provide general oversight of its affairs. The authority granted to the Board, through state statute and University Bylaws, encompasses those powers traditionally exercised by the governing boards of institutions of higher education. Newly appointed members of the Board of Trustees are provided with a comprehensive orientation of the University. A typical orientation schedule includes a tour of campus and briefings on a number of topics such as the Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees, Board Ethics, including the State Code of Ethics, Board Committees, State Freedom of Information Laws, Academics, Research, Commercialization, Entrepreneurship and Tech Transfer, Budget and Capital Projects, Enrollment and Financial Aid, the UConn Foundation, Fundraising and Alumni Relations, Communications and Marketing, Government Relations and Athletics. Orientations of UConn Health are provided separately. Refresher sessions are provided regularly to the full Board and include topics such as the state code of ethics, the freedom of information act and Board members' fiduciary responsibilities.

As you can see, we are already providing our governing board with the necessary background and support needed to carry out their fiduciary and other responsibilities and support the intentions of this bill.

We thank you for your attention.