Testimony for the
Judiciary Committee
Jennifer Widness, President
The Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
March 2, 2020

On behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC) I am submitting testimony on SB 16: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADULT USE OF CANNABIS.

This bill seeks to legalize cannabis use for adults over aged 21, among other things. **Section 48 of this bill prohibits an institution of higher education from prohibiting the legal consumption of a cannabis-type substance in any nonpublic area of such institution.**

This language, if adopted, would put higher education institutions in conflict with the federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act which mandates that institutions of higher education have a drug-free campus policy in order to continue to be eligible to receive federal funding. The law states that for students to be eligible for financial funding like Stafford loans, federal work study, or other types of financial aid, a college or university must enforce a drug program with proper protocol for students cited for drug use, possession, and/or distribution (of cannabis or other substances).

Around the country, in states where marijuana usage has been legalized, overwhelmingly marijuana usage on campus is still prohibited in order to comply with federal rules and receive federal funding.

CCIC would ask that the language of Section 48, subsection (a) be amended such that the provision does not apply to institutions of higher education. See below. Thank you for your consideration.

**Sec. 48. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2020)**

a) No institution of higher education or hotel, motel or similar lodging shall prohibit the legal consumption of a cannabis-type substance, as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes, in any nonpublic area of such institution; hotel, motel or similar lodging.

b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an institution of higher education and hotel, motel and similar lodging may prohibit the smoking of a cannabis-type substance and the use of an electronic cannabis delivery system, as defined in section 19a-342a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and vapor product, as defined in said section, containing a cannabis-type substance in any location of such institution or hotel, motel or similar lodging.