



71 Raymond Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 678-0005  
[www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org)

**Testimony for the  
Public Safety & Security Committee  
Jennifer Widness, President  
The Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
March 2, 2021**

On behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC) I am submitting testimony on **S.B. 146: AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPORTS WAGERING, ONLINE CASINO, GAMING, ONLINE LOTTERY AND ONLINE KENO**, which seeks to authorize sports wagering, online casino gaming, online lottery and online keno in this state.

We are concerned that as currently drafted, “sporting event,” for which betting would be permissible, is defined to include “any sporting or athletic event sponsored by an intercollegiate athletic program of an institution of higher education.” **We would ask that this bill be amended to prohibit betting on intercollegiate sports.**

The introduction of legalized wagering on intercollegiate sports will add undue pressure and influence on our student athletes. It will cause further stress on our students’ mental health – for those who bet and for those who participate by potentially providing illegal information. Our member institutions would be forced to provide new resources to support students should sports betting on intercollegiate sports move forward. Both the mental health and fiscal health of our institutions have been severely stressed by the pandemic and cannot withstand any additional pressures.

Further, the majority of our member institutions lack any sort of infrastructure to monitor compliance. Institutions would be required to provide education campus-wide for students, faculty and staff on an ongoing basis as to what is permissible and what is not and they would need to hire more staff for regulatory purposes without additional resources to do so.

**Our preference would be that all betting on intercollegiate events be prohibited.** However, we are open to compromise. Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York have all placed a prohibition on sports betting on institutions of higher education located in-state. The bill under consideration in Massachusetts’ prohibits betting on all college sports. See the below.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this issue moving forward.

### Sports Betting in the Northeast

State	Status	Bet <sup>ting</sup> on Intercollegiate Sports is Limited
Massachusetts	<a href="#">Under Consideration</a>	<b>“Prohibited sports event”</b> , any amateur sport or athletic event, including any collegiate sport or athletic event or high school sport or athletic event regardless of where the event takes place; and any electronic sports or eSports event.
New Hampshire	<a href="#">Law</a>	<b>"Prohibited sports event"</b> means: (a) A collegiate sports event in which one of the participants is a collegiate team of a college institution that is primarily located in New Hampshire; (b) A collegiate sports event that takes place in New Hampshire;.
New Jersey	<a href="#">Law</a>	<b>"Prohibited sports event"</b> means any collegiate sport or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or a sport or athletic event in which any New Jersey college team participates regardless of where the event takes place.
New York	<a href="#">Law</a>	<b>"Prohibited sports event"</b> means any collegiate sport or athletic event that takes place in New York or a sport or athletic event in which any New York college team participates regardless of where the event takes place;
Rhode Island	<a href="#">Law</a>	<b>"Collegiate sports or athletic event"</b> shall not include a collegiate sports contest or collegiate athletic event that takes place in Rhode Island or a sports contest or athletic event in which any Rhode Island college team participates regardless of where the event takes place.”