

Testimony of Yale University
SB 146, An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Online Casino Gaming,
Online Lottery and Online Keno
March 2, 2021

Representative Horn, Senator Bradley, Senator Osten, Representative Paolillo, and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 146, “An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Online Casino Gaming, Online Lottery and Online Keno.” Yale University strongly opposes betting on collegiate sports. While we recognize the state’s interest in legalizing sports betting, the university strongly recommends that collegiate sports be excluded from wagering in Connecticut.

As currently drafted, SB 146 would allow betting on sporting events which are defined to include “any sporting or athletic event sponsored by an intercollegiate athletic program of an institution of higher education.” The legalization of collegiate sports betting in any form would change the character of collegiate competition and present serious risks to the integrity of athletic events. Equally important, it would introduce unnecessary pressure and influence on student athletes, while causing further stress on the mental health of student-athletes as well as the students who may choose to place wagers.

Yale firmly believes it is in the best interest of our students and student-athletes to oppose this legislation as drafted. We would ask the committee that this bill be amended to prohibit betting on intercollegiate sports.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with the committee on this issue moving forward.