



**Testimony for the
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Mark R. Nemec, PhD, President
Fairfield University
February 10, 2022**

On behalf of Fairfield University, I am submitting testimony on the following bill that is before you today:

**H.B. No. 5034: AN ACT PROHIBITING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FROM CONSIDERING LEGACY PREFERENCES IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

This bill seeks to prohibit institutions of higher education from considering legacy preferences in the admissions process.

Both public and private institutions have a responsibility to admit students with demonstrated potential to succeed in their academic programs, and progress toward degree completion. One notable factor in success and degree completion is the student's commitment to the institution and its educational programs. To the extent that having a relative who previously attended and completed a degree program at the institution is evidence of commitment, then legacy status is an important factor in the admissions process.

Fairfield University strongly opposes this bill on the premise that it is not appropriate for the state to be dictating admissions policies at private entities. The University promotes access and opportunity, but feels strongly that the complex admissions policies are best left to individual institutions.

The success of our sector in navigating the pandemic has been due to government partnership, not undue intrusion and regulation in areas the state has no authority or expertise.