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**Testimony for the  
Higher Education and  
Workforce Advancement Committee of  
Jennifer Widness, President  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
March 5, 2024**

On behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, I am submitting testimony on **H.B. 5339: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY HISTORY DURING THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**, seeks to prohibit institutions of higher education from considering the school disciplinary history of an applicant during the admissions process.

CCIC appreciates the intent of this bill. The majority of our member institutions do not collect criminal background or disciplinary history in the initial application process. The Common App – which nearly all of the CCIC schools utilize -- removed this question from its general application in 2018-2019. We recognize the barriers that asking this question may present to accessing higher education, especially for certain demographic groups disproportionately.

As with [SB 203](#), however, CCIC is opposed to any legislation that interferes with institutional autonomy as it relates to our admissions process and our ability to conduct a holistic review. We continue to believe that institutions are in the best position to determine the criteria that will help them build a diverse admissions class with an appropriate range of talent, background, and interests.