



Association of Independent  
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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March 4, 2025

The Honorable Representative McNamara  
Chairman, House Committee on Education  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI, 02903

Dear Chairman McNamara,

On behalf of the member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, I am writing to express our strong opposition to **House Bill 5487**.

Legacy admissions have been a practice of higher education institutions across the country for years, at both public and private institutions.

A major concern arises with preventing legacy admissions due to the significant disparity in underrepresented demographic groups attending higher education institutions. Since the Supreme Court decision that did away with Affirmative Action in 2023, breaking down barriers has become even more difficult for underrepresented groups. Banning legacy status from being a considered factor in the admissions process would only compound this issue and potentially create more roadblocks to accessing postsecondary education.

The notion of a one size fits all legislation aimed at regulating the admissions process of higher education overlooks the complexity of the many factors an institution takes into consideration when assessing an applicant. This legislation could potentially prevent a student that would otherwise prove to be a valuable asset to the institution from attending due to their legacy status not being considered.

This legislation would impede on higher educational institutions ability to determine their individual admissions criteria in accordance with the mission, values, and goals of the college or university and establish a precedent of unnecessary oversight into the college admissions process.

This legislation infringes on institutional autonomy, and more importantly, could decrease a potential students' likelihood of attending the private institutions of their choice in Rhode Island, further limiting the "brain gain" that the state receives with each incoming class in September.

With these points in mind, AICU *Rhode Island* strongly opposes the passage of **House Bill 5487**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Egan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel P. Egan  
President