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To: House Education Committee
Subject: H7416

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Dear Sirs

My name is Alicia Cranston, I am a resident of West Greenwich RI and I oppose the bill introduced by Senator David Tikoian (2026-S 2432A) and the bill by Tina L Spears (2026-H 7416).

I believe that the government should not use legislative bills to interfere with the admissions process of the University, which already has a rigorous enrollment process established. These bills undermine the strategic process in place at a foremost concern.

Secondly, as a parent of three—two boys and a girl all of whom were scouts, 4-H members, and FFA members who achieved honors in all organizations and held very active roles and offices as they grew—I feel that these bills also dilute the value and intent of those achievements. Teaching our youth the perspective of service above self, and community service should be a natural part of their lives not something to check off a box or gain from; this is contrary to the goals of these organizations. Being a well rounded "human" and participating in organizations like these, sports, academics, community organizations, religious activities, etc., should all be part of their college applications if that is the direction they pursue, serving as added interests and activities. Institutions of higher education have long had processes to consider these aspects of an applicant's profile. Just as individuals who choose to apply to trade schools, or enter the workforce include these aspects on their resumes to be taken into consideration. This is where these activities are appropriately considered when evaluating an individual and their characteristics and traits that would make them a suitable candidate.

Lastly, adding government oversight to how a university grants acceptance or dictating what they must consider adds an inappropriate layer of government involvement. If we now include these items, this path becomes very slippery very quickly. We already put these institutions in difficult positions with requirements to gain funding through demographics rather than results, strategic planing and true need.

Please oppose these bills and allow our Universities to maintain their existing strategic plans and rigor. This type of energy and attention is much better used to support educational resources and funding.

Thank you
Alicia Cranston