



Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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April 2, 2026
The Honorable Representative McNamara
Chairman, House Committee on Education
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman McNamara and Members of the Committee,

RE: H7893

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 7893**.

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 7893**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Daniel P. Egan
President