



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 24, 2015

I hereby return, without my signature, House Bill 6118, *An Act Concerning Student Membership on the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut*. This bill expands the number of student members elected to the University of Connecticut's Board of Trustees (the "Board of Trustees") increasing the total membership to twenty-three members.

While I encourage and support student involvement in the issues confronting students and public higher education, currently there is the opportunity for direct student input on the Board of Trustees. The Trustees bring varied experiences, professional expertise, and diverse viewpoints to their work – including those of students. The Board of Trustees was constituted to reflect the breadth of its charge in carrying out the University of Connecticut's educational mission with that balance of viewpoints in carrying out its mission. Currently, that balance is met with the inclusion of two trustees elected from the alumni of the University, in addition to two students elected by the student body – all of whom are voting members.

By balancing these perspectives, the Trustees have a record of guiding Connecticut's flagship university to successfully fulfill its educational mission. House Bill 6118 would alter the balance currently reflected in the makeup of the Board of Trustees. The membership of the Board of Trustees would grow to twenty-three members. With two elected and voting student members the Board of Trustees the University of Connecticut already exceeds the average for student inclusion at public universities. Further, there are many avenues for student input in the decisions affecting the student community at the University.

For these reasons, I disapprove of House Bill 6118, *An Act Concerning Student Membership on the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning House Bill 6118 without my signature.