

Chairpersons Elliot and Slap, Vice Chairs Flexer and Turco, Ranking Members Haines and Witkos, and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. No. 5034.

My name is Viet Nguyen and I am first generation, low-income alumni leading the movement to end legacy preferences. Our organization, EdMobilizer, is a coalition of low-income, first-generation college students and alumni working to make higher education more equitable.

On behalf of our coalition, many of whom are students at schools in Connecticut, I want to express my strong support for H.B. No. 5034: 'An Act Concerning Prohibiting an Institution of Higher Education from Considering Legacy Preferences in the Admissions Process,' and I urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Legacy preferences were created as a tool to decrease the number of Jewish students from attending elite institutions and today remains as a lever to create exclusive cycles of wealth. With the growing inequity in America and the recent scandals, the tide against legacy preferences is changing and Connecticut has the opportunity to join Colorado in leading the charge on the national stage.

State money should not be funding universities that are using this racist and classist practice. Many of the colleges are presenting the issue as an "either/or" situation, between increasing support and financial resources to low income students or eliminating legacy preferences. For true equity, both need to happen. We don't have to give in to the ultimatum.

Please vote in favor of H.B. No. 5034.

Thank you for your time, and for your work on behalf of Connecticut citizens