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## Testimony of Judith Greiman

President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

Select Committee on Children and Committee on Judiciary  
Joint Informational Hearing on Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse  
January 24, 2012

On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am here to provide insight into how suspected child abuse is handled on private college campuses. I will speak briefly to give a sector overview and attorney David Winokur of Wesleyan University will outline how things work at the campus level.

Colleges are multi-faceted and have various ways in which campus faculty or contractors engage with students and school age children who are on campus. In each case, there are relevant campus policies that track pertinent state and federal laws. Some have sports or academic programs for children on an ongoing basis or host K-12 schools on their campuses. All have athletics of one sort or another for students, including those who may be under eighteen. Most have a counseling center and/or health center.

Currently, all colleges are subject to Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The Act mandates that colleges and universities must annually file a Campus Security Report with the federal government and must make the report available to students and employees. This report must include crime statistics for the prior three years, policy statements regarding various safety and security measures, campus crime prevention program descriptions, and procedures to be followed in the investigation and prosecution of alleged sexual offenses. Additionally, campuses have behavioral codes of conduct for students to follow and campus judicial processes that cover sexual violence among other things.

Physicians and psychologists are currently mandated reporters and these campus employees are required to report child abuse to the Department of Child and Family Services or to the local police. These employees are notified of this requirement. As noted by one campus representative, "students are given a notice of privacy practices to read before they are seen by one of these professionals in which the specific uses and disclosures of health information are listed for the students and include the reporting of child abuse. All students sign that they have read the policy."

Campus policies spell out what rules each type of employee must follow. For example, Saint Joseph College has an employee handbook that generally outlines what is considered appropriate and inappropriate behavior and then notes that employees of its early childhood center and its special needs school have additional state laws and program guidelines that must be followed.

Albertus Magnus College, Connecticut College, Fairfield University, Goodwin College,  
Mitchell College, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer at Hartford, Sacred Heart University, Saint Joseph College, St. Vincent's College,  
Trinity College, University of Bridgeport, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, Wesleyan University, Yale University

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Many campuses routinely include information about mandated reporting in the sexual harassment training provided annually to employees. While there is usually a campus person to whom a report should be given, employees are also told of the requirement to report to the commissioner of DCF and/or the local police.

In surveying the campuses, they did not note any problems in the past with following the process or requirements of the statute. We appreciate being asked to present and hope to work closely with you as you determine whether legislative changes are necessary.