



The Connecticut Women's Consortium

Enhancing behavioral health through education and advocacy

2321 Whitney Avenue, Suite 401, Hamden, Connecticut 06518

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Public Hearing: March 7, 2025

In Support of **H.B. 6078**: An Act Concerning the Availability of Emergency Contraception on the Campuses of Institutions of Higher Education

Dear Co-Chair Senator Slap, Co-Chair Representative Haddad, Ranking Member Senator Martin, Ranking Member Representative Bronko, Vice Chair Senator Gadkar-Wilcox, Vice Chair Representative Rochelle, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

I am testifying in support of H.B. 6078 on behalf of The Connecticut Women's Consortium, a Hamden-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and our mission to provide trauma-informed, gender-responsive education and advocate for the systems serving women to be accessible, effective, and inclusive. Trauma-informed care emphasizes safety, trust, and empowerment for people who have experienced trauma, while gender-responsive care addresses the unique challenges individuals face based on gender.

In addition to aligning with the principles of trauma-informed and gender-responsive care—such as choice, accessibility, and empowerment—this act would also promote improved public health. A JAMA systematic review found that unintended pregnancies are linked to adverse maternal and infant outcomes, including higher rates of depression, suicidality, interpersonal violence, infant mortality, low birth weight, and preterm birth¹. For college students, an unplanned pregnancy can also derail their education, forcing them to redirect time, money, and energy away from school and limiting their autonomy over their future.

Despite this, many students face significant barriers to non-emergency contraception, including unreliable transportation, limited income, lack of insurance, and inadequate education on birth control. Access is especially limited at community colleges, where free or low-cost on-campus health services are scarce. In Connecticut, only three of thirteen CT State Community College campuses have Women's Centers, and none provide health services².

Supporting H.B. 6078 and providing easily accessible emergency contraception would be a clear statement of the State's commitment to higher education, public health, the principles of gender-responsive and trauma-informed care, and the voice and autonomy of people who experience unplanned pregnancies.

Thank you,

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1. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2797874>
2. <https://ctstate.edu/life-at-ct-state/campus-resources>

