



**Dannel P. Malloy**

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Denise W. Merrill  
Secretary of the State  
30 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

I hereby return, without my signature, Senate Bill 399, *An Act Concerning Reporting Requirements of the University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher Education Regarding Financial Aid and Requiring Legislative Approval for the Closure of Certain College Campuses and Manufacturing Programs*. This bill, as amended, introduces inappropriate changes to the operation of the Board of Regents for Higher Education (the "Board").

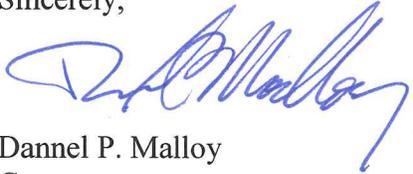
While I understand and share the concerns surrounding the question of the status of the Meriden Center instructional site of the Middlesex Community College, this matter is now resolved. The Board governs the state's regional community-technical college system, the Connecticut State University System and Charter Oak State College. It was created to operate the Regents system within the framework of the budget enacted by the legislature. It is therefore appropriate and necessary for the Board and the employees of the Regents system to consider cost-cutting measures, as needed, as part of their basic budgetary responsibilities.

SB 399, as amended, would require legislative approval of a decision by the Board to close any campus or suspend any manufacturing program. The Board is best positioned to determine appropriate measures to take in light of fiscal constraints, enrollment changes, or health and safety issues. In addition, current state law already requires that the closure of any campus be approved by 2/3 vote of the Board and that a notice be sent to the General Assembly. Unfortunately, this bill was passed by the legislature before that existing process could be completed and, if enacted, this legislation would create an additional process for campus closures above what already exists.

For these reasons, I disapprove of Senate Bill 399, *An Act Concerning Reporting Requirements of the University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher Education Regarding Financial Aid and Requiring Legislative Approval for the Closure of Certain College Campuses*

*and Manufacturing Programs.* Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning Senate Bill 399 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Malloy", written in a cursive style.

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor