



June 12, 2019

Memorandum of Support

A.8267 (D'Urso)/ S.6325 (Kaplan)

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) supports A.8267/ S.6325 which would amend the covered employees subject to Reportable Business Relationships. This legislation would reduce the administrative burden on colleges and universities as well as provide additional employment opportunities for teaching faculty at public colleges. CICU represents more than 100 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in New York State who educate almost 500,000 students annually.

Under the state's Lobbying Act, covered entities are required to disclose business relationships with state employees to ensure public confidence in policymaking. This is a laudable goal. However, when this requirement is extended to non-policymaking teaching faculty, it creates an administrative hurdle for colleges and universities looking to hire qualified instructors. When private, not-for-profit colleges hire SUNY and CUNY faculty to teach a course, this constitutes a reportable business relationship even though the faculty to be hired have no ability to influence public policy beyond that of any other member of the public. Removing the reporting requirements only for non-policymaking faculty would open new doors for New York's world-class educators while preserving the strong disclosure requirements of the Lobbying Act. The status quo reporting requirements represent another cost driver that ultimately is borne by students and hinder a student's ability to learn from a diverse faculty body.

For these reasons CICU supports this legislation and urges the legislature to pass it.