

**STATEMENT OF JOHN B. DAUKAS, PRESIDENT-ELECT  
OF THE DARTMOUTH COLLEGE ALUMNI COUNCIL, BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE ON HB 1292, AN ACT RELATIVE  
TO AMENDING THE CHARTER OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE**

Chairman Reardon and members of the Committee:

I am John Daukas. I am the President-Elect of Dartmouth College's Alumni Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1292. In my remarks, I wish briefly to explain what Dartmouth College's Alumni Council is, and to urge you to reject this bill.

The Alumni Council of Dartmouth College is constitutionally charged as the principal spokesperson for Dartmouth's 68,800 living alumni. It is the "primary forum" for the exchange of alumni sentiment and the representative of Dartmouth alumni.

The Alumni Council was formed in 1913 in part "to act as the official spokesman of alumni sentiment," and to be a fully-representative group of graduates; in order to prevent subgroups of alumni from purporting to speak for the College's alumni.

The Alumni Council consists of 100 members who represent each of Dartmouth's graduated classes, alumni clubs from various cities and geographic regions, affiliated alumni groups, graduate schools, and at-large representatives, among others. The Council also has faculty and student members. The Council's mission is "to sustain a fully informed, representative, and engaged exchange of information and sentiment between alumni and their College, and to enhance and inspire alumni involvement that furthers the mission of the College."

On behalf of Dartmouth's 68,800 alumni, we respectfully ask that you reject this bill. One of Dartmouth's greatest strengths is that it is a family. Its members are fiercely loyal and independent. It is this loyalty and independence that makes Dartmouth such a unique and

enduring institution. We may disagree from time to time, but at the end of the day we are united by our shared Dartmouth experience. And we are in the best position to help shape Dartmouth's future -- free from government interference.

The New Hampshire motto is "live free or die." We ask you to honor that motto by allowing Dartmouth to live free of government and political interference in its internal affairs.

Thank you very much for your time. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.