

June 29, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric   
Interim President

RE: Establishment of the Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees establish the Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice in the Human Rights Institute in the Office of Global Affairs.

BACKGROUND:

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd and Jackie Clegg Dodd established the Dodd Endowment at the University of Connecticut Foundation in 2020. The endowment fund was publicly announced on October 1, 2020, and additional gifts and commitments are consistent with the amount recommended under the University's *Named Gift Guidelines* for an endowed Chair.

The Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice will honor Senator Dodd's contributions to the world and to the University and extend his legacy by creating a new and innovative space for the University's human rights outreach and engagement work. The position will enable the University to attract a dynamic and innovative scholar/leader to direct the Dodd Programs providing a platform for engaging the broader public and acting as a critical bridge between the resources and expertise of the University's Human Rights Institute and local, national, and global communities. The Dodd Chair will help address the urgent need to protect human rights and preserve human dignity.

Senator Dodd dedicated his life to serving the people of Connecticut and to defending the fundamental rights and freedoms in the U.S. and around the world. From his earliest days in the Senate, when he worked to end the worst abuses of human rights in Nicaragua and El Salvador, to the essential role he played in achieving peace in Northern Ireland, Christopher Dodd was a consistent voice for the values of human rights around the world. In particular, he focused on trying to ensure all children have the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive, playing an essential role in the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the establishment of the Children's Health Insurance Program, and defending and extending Head Start. In his final years in the Senate, Senator Dodd's leadership was critical to the drafting and adoption of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Affordable Care Act.

At its June 7, 2022, meeting, the Institutional Advancement Committee recommended approval to the full Board.