

Due to my wife's hip replacement surgery today, I am unable to attend this hearing but take this opportunity to share some of my concerns.

Although I recognize the enormity of the current fiscal crisis, this budget begins the destruction of our Community Colleges which is exactly the wrong approach.

Our Community Colleges are the least costly, most effective, and nationally recognized unit of our States higher education system. We serve the most disadvantaged segment of our citizens seeking higher education and job training. The very people we need to have employed to turn our economy around.

Why then has our budget been cut more drastically than any other unit of higher education?

When this fiscal crisis finally ends, which end it must, it will take years and billions to repair the havoc that this short sighted budget will have caused to our Community Colleges, our students, and the citizens of Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted

Jules Lang

Community College Trustee since 1977