

Good afternoon, Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Anthony Spinola and I come before you to express my opposition to the proposed budget reductions in the Governor's budget for the Community Colleges.

I am a student at NVCC, (I am a 20 year Navy Retiree and 60% disabled Veteran, I have been in Two Campaigns Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom. Naugatuck Valley CC has allowed me to continue to better myself both professionally and culturally at a lower cost to allow me to be able to survive. Today I come before you both as a Veteran and as a student. In the past, it was said that a mind is a terrible thing to waste. Yet, any reduction to the budget of community colleges does just that. Any cuts to education will devastate our youth.

I implore the legislature not to approve a reduced budget for the Community Colleges. My future and the future of many other students depend on having access to an affordable and quality education that prepares us for the workforce so we can contribute to the economic well being of Connecticut.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will be delighted to answer any questions.

Anthony Spinola

NVCC Student