

Alex Tettey Jr.

Testimony to the CT General Assembly's Appropriation Committee

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011

Good evening Madame Chair Walker, Madame Chair Harp, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Alex Tettey Jr., and I'm currently a student attending Manchester Community College. I'm here tonight to voice my opposition to the funding cuts of the Community College System here in Connecticut, as proposed in Governor Malloy's Budget.

I'll speak briefly about myself; in the fall of 2001 I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during my senior year in high school. I left for basic training a few months after graduation. 6 years and 1 deployment overseas later I transitioned into the Marine Corps Reserve and decided to pursue a degree. I began classes at Manchester Community College in the fall of 08'. After a successful first semester I was forced to withdraw from the spring semester when my unit was reactivated and deployed to Iraq. I returned to the States in the early summer of last year and I resumed classes at MCC this past fall. The transition from military to college life hasn't always been easy but, with the help of the faculty, staff, professors and counselors, it's been a bit easier. To me, Manchester Community College has been my new beginning and second chance.

I know that a reduction in funds would possibly mean a reduction in staff and services, higher tuition, and diminish the capability for the schools to offer all the services they currently provide. I been extremely fortunate to benefit from the Community College system here in Connecticut, and the reason I chose to testify against the proposed spending cuts is because I believe ultimately it is the students here in Connecticut that would suffer. I would like to see future students be provided with the same opportunities I have been. I do understand the State of Connecticut is in dire straits financially, but if all possible, I would urge you to consider how valuable the community college system is to the students of the state, and perhaps view the funds spent of the Community College system not as an expense but as an investment in the future of Connecticut. Thank you.

Madame Chair Walker, Madame Chair Harp, and members of the Appropriation Committee thank you for providing me this opportunity to speak here tonight.

-Alex Tettey Jr.