

Higher Education Appropriations Hearing

Monday, February 28th, 2011

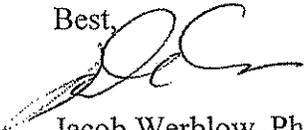
Written Testimony

Good evening, Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Sen. Maynard, Rep. Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today.

You are currently being asked to make several major changes to the CSU University system in an attempt to help balance the state budget. While I and many of my colleagues are willing to work with you and the governor to balance the budget in these financially challenging times, I do have one request: Before you ask us to make deep concessions, first tax those who have more than they need comparative to our neighboring states. Even with Gov. Malloy's proposed increases, our state income tax rate for the wealthiest will remain significantly lower than New Jersey, Maine, New York, and Rhode Island. New York imposes an 8.97% income tax on individuals making more than \$500k. Rhode Island is even higher. Why can't CT do the same? Why should the super rich living in our state give less back than they do in New York or Rhode Island? It's time for all of us to do our share. Let's adopt the state income tax rates for New Yorkers before we talk about cutting education budgets.

Another proposition for balancing the budget, cap the annual pay of state employee at \$100k. Why? Two reasons: How can anyone justify paying state employees more than that while thousands of children in our state are homeless? Paying employees more than this amount is not only unethical, but research on motivation consistently demonstrates that individuals performing complex tasks are not driven by higher rates of pay, once they receive an adequate salary. Until child homeless is eradicated, a maximum of \$100k a year is adequate. Is it time for our great state to stand for principles that the rest of the union will admire. What would be the purpose of balancing the budget, if we do not also balance the principles and morals for our budget to be spent on?

Best,



Jacob Werblow, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Central Connecticut State University
New Britain, CT 06050