

Brittney Cava
150 Doman Drive
Torrington, CT 06790

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee's public hearing on S.B. No. 1011 - An Act
Concerning a Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Public Higher Education.

"Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today. As a soon to be senior at Eastern Connecticut State University I have greatly valued my experiences at our unique public liberal arts school. Throughout the past few years I have developed close relationships with my professors both in my small classes and with outside independent research. I have felt truly supported by the services Eastern provides with programs such as career services and the academic services center. I feel as though my well rounded education and support from the faculty and staff has prepared me to be an independent thinker and for my career when I graduate. I understand that the state is in a severe budget crisis and understandably cuts need to be made. However, I am concerned that with this restructuring future students of my institution won't have the same opportunity as I have had to be supported and grow in the unique small liberal arts school that I have grown to love. I'm worried that with all the presidents of the community colleges, state universities, and Charter Oak competing for the same pool of money that programs at each institution will suffer and decline in value. Each institution has it's own unique mission and ways to accomplish their goals. Recently, we have been recognized as a Tier One school and the top 28th public institution in the region making Eastern the highest ranked in the CSU system according to U.S. News and World Report. I am proud of my University and I think it will be challenging to maintain this level of excellence with the restructuring and extreme budget cuts. I'm concerned restructuring will not only be financially costly in itself but comes at the expense at the quality of our education. As a resident of Connecticut, a student, and future member of the work force I ask you to consider myself as well as my fellow students and the negative consequences this restructuring will have for us. Thank you.