



UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

Testimony for the Appropriations Committee

from Students & Parents of

The University of Hartford

February 21, 2012

Shivani Shaw, Freshman from Glastonbury

Hello. My name is Shivani Shah and I currently attend the University of Hartford. I am a freshman in the Physical Therapy program. I receive \$3,500 a semester from this grant. Being a recipient of this grant greatly decreases the financial burden on my parents who own a small business that is not doing as well as it used to due to the downturn of the economy. Also, I have a sister who is also in college and supported by my parents. I need this grant because I still have 3 more years for my undergraduate degree and another 3 for my doctorate. Without this grant I don't know if I would be able to afford to come to this university. \$7,000 a year is so much money and is not easy to come up with. It is always said that the youth are the future for tomorrow and they should get a good education. If I cannot pay for it how will I get that good education and be able to help people? I work so hard to keep up my grades. Last semester I had a 3.71 GPA and made Dean's list. I am working towards making President's List (3.75+ GPA) this semester. If I am working hard to maintain my grades and GPA for my scholarships, should I not be entitled to this grant that is also helping my parents. So many students work hard and strive to succeed in college. The least the state government can do is not cut funding for students like me who are willing to do the work and need as much financial help we can get. I know the government needs to make cuts in spending but do they really want to do it in educational grants that are helping the future of the coming years? The economy has already made it hard on so many families and if this budget cut happens it will make it even harder. Please do not cut this funding. Myself and many other students in Connecticut need this grant to help pay for college. Thank you.