

Dear CT Higher Education and Employment Committee,

I write this in regards to the funding cuts to higher education being proposed and deliberated at the present moment. Unfortunately, I cannot be present at the public hearing, but I thank you for your time and consideration of my words. I am an undergraduate at Central Connecticut State University, studying economics and graduating this year. I have previously served on the Board of Trustees to the Connecticut State University System as an elected student representative.

Continuous decreases in funding to higher education, and the subsequent increases in tuition costs, neglect the future of this state. This continuous pattern is barricading talented young people from access to higher education and social mobility, thus perpetuating the abhorrent inequalities that are present today in education and our society at-large. Students cannot be expected to afford these costs with declining incomes, high unemployment, underemployment and rising costs of basic needs such as food. At CCSU, a commuter school, students face high transportation costs as well. This strategy will not solve any problems; it will multiply existing ones. For example, the student debt crisis threatens any legitimate prospects of long-term economic recovery.

Connecticut should promote access to higher education and create more opportunities, not the opposite.

Best,

Alexis Rodriguez