

Luke Hunter
Class of 2013
English Major
Southern Connecticut State University

Hello and thank you for letting me take some of your time. Today, I will be testifying on Bill 844, “An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Higher Education.” As a senior at Southern Connecticut State University, I am currently enrolled in 5 classes – one of which is writing intensive - and the cumulative effect of these classes is an endless dedication to the process of drafting and revision, in addition to hours of extensive reading and writing. I work on campus at Hilton C. Buley Library 20-30 hours a week, and in addition to this, I also receive a stipend by working as an Editor for Folio, SCSU’s Literary and Art magazine.

Despite all of my efforts, I have inevitably had to take out multiple loans every year in order to afford being able to attend college. It is stressful enough at this point in my life to have to worry about whether or not I will be able to pay off my already existing loans. With our economy in the state that it is in, do you, the reader of this letter, honestly believe that raising tuition by 778\$ is going to make life easier for people like me who need a higher education in hopes of finding a suitable job to pay off what seems to be an already insurmountable debt?

There is something wrong with the overall structure of student aid to begin with – raising the tuition will only make things more difficult for everyone, except the select few who benefit financially by raising the tuition. Please consider the circumstances and pressures facing my generation: this affects us more than you may be aware of.

Sincerely,
Luke E.E. Hunter.