

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of students currently enrolled in the state university system, in regards to Bill 844, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Higher Education." I have been attending Southern Connecticut State University for about 4 years now and was recently accepted into their nursing program. For all four years of college I have worked full time, and supported myself without the help of my parents. Financial aid had been gracious to me, and has helped me towards my goal of becoming a nurse, but an increase in tuition would be a huge burden for both me, as well as many of my peers.

With the cost of books, supplies, transportation, and living expenses, I already am forced to supplement my loans while going through a vigorous program that challenges me both physically, mentally and emotionally. Every day is dedicated to putting all I can into my studies.

With a tuition increase I am unaware how I would be able to cover the costs of going to school and living on my own. To me, an increase such as the one proposed could be the difference between being able to pursue my dreams and being unable to pay for tuition.

I ask you to consider how this increase would affect people like me, who are on their own trying to better themselves through education, and think about the impact that a tuition increase would have on all of us, who work hard every day to make our community and state a better place to live.

Thank you for your time,

Melissa Linck
Southern Connecticut State University
Nursing Grad Student