

Hello,

Today, I will be testifying on Bill 844, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Higher Education." I'm a 5th year senior at Southern Connecticut State University and I have been working throughout my entire career in the Connecticut State University system. Recently I have heard that due to financial problems in Hartford, the state has decided to bring more financial cuts. It is now being decided as to where the burden of these cuts will be ---the very people the system is been designed for, the students of Connecticut.

Personally, I have to face the responsibility of my tuition expenses out of my own pocket and have had very limited support from my family and I rely mostly on government funding help in paying for my tuition. This however only covers the costs of my tuition and not for my living costs. During my time at Southern I have had to make the difficult decision on several occasion on whether I should take a certain class or try to organize a schedule were both work. However this can sometimes lead to an agonizing decision in which I have to either hold myself back an entire semester or decide whether I can eat or not.

When I hear about the governments decision to raise tuition across the board after already raising it in 2010 and consistently cutting funding from education since 1990, it makes me wonder if working students like myself have a place here in the Connecticut university system and whether Connecticut wants hard workers and hard working students here in state trying to earn a living for the long term. Either way I urge you to consider what the implications of even a small increase to the tuition might mean to students like myself who are trying to support themselves. As a student who is planning to raise his family and to work in this state I demand that you do not place the financial burden of bad budgeting on the students and do whatever is necessary to keep tuition costs down in this state.

Thank You

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