

Dear General Assembly,

Today, the bill that I will be testifying on is bill 844, an act implementing the budget recommendations of the governor concerning higher education. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

My name is Sahar Khan. I am a biology and history major at Central Connecticut State University. I aspire to one day become a physician to help Connecticut's uninsured. I want to take this challenge so I can give back to my community. If you walk around our campus, you will see similar faces. Student engineers that want to build Connecticut's infrastructure, student nurses that hope to assist Connecticut's elderly and many student teachers that hope to become Connecticut's public educators. In fact, 90% of students stay in state to pursue a career path contributing to our Connecticut's economic recovery.

This is the generation of tomorrow that is being met with a huge amount of resistance because of tuition increases. We students are being taken away from our innate right to receive an education because the higher cost of living and a simultaneous rise in tuition are bills are not being met at home. Even though, both my parents have health problems they continue to work at day and stay awake for the night shift, because they believe knowledge has the power to be that guiding light in darkness.

So I ask all of us to come together and think about how we can help everyone attain higher form of thinking. From the students that work three jobs and go to school full time to the single mother that hopes for a more stable and better future through education. If the force against us is not stopped—it will not only deprive me and many fellow students of an education but the community of a doctor, a teacher, an engineer and many more individuals that will be our guiding light.

Sincerely,

Sahar Khan  
CCSU Student