



**Written  
Testimony**

**Submitted**

**by  
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**Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs Public Hearing  
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Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today on *S.B. 934 An Act Concerning Fee Waivers for Educational Extension Programs and Summer School Sessions for Wartime Veterans and Members of the Connecticut National Guard*.

The University stands ready to assist veterans who have bravely defended our country. While the University feels that our veterans should not have to worry about how to finance their college expenses, we are concerned, given the University's declining state appropriations, about the fiscal impact of this legislation to UConn. Most of the courses the University offers in the summer are self-supporting and receive no state appropriations. Instructors and other costs associated with summer courses are paid through student fees. If these fees were waived, per Senate bill 934, the University would have to absorb the costs. It is important to note, the Post 9/11 G.I. bill Chapter 33 benefits cover summer courses. To the extent that benefits are not covered by the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, this waiver would create a cost to the University.

This legislation also waives the extension fees for education extension programs. Since 1995, UConn has provided the extension fee waiver to veteran students in matriculated programs in the fall and spring. Recently the Board of Trustees approved extending the fee waiver to certain programs in the summer and intersession.

UConn estimates it has paid \$2,470,096 for FY 2011 and \$2,246,475 for FY 2012 for veteran's tuition and fee waivers for which we receive no state funds. This legislation expands the waiver to cover summer course fees which is not supported by state appropriations. We are concerned about the fiscal impact of this legislation. In the past several years, the University has absorbed

budget cuts totaling \$64.2 million. If this legislation is adopted, we urge you to provide the University with the funding to cover additional costs.