Kalie Menders
Southern Connecticut State University
Testimony Public Hearing 2/24

Members of the Appropriation Committee:

My name is Kalie Menders and I am a freshman at Southern Connecticut State University. As a student that graduated at the top of my high school class, I was expected to go to a rather prestigious university. However, my family would not have been able to endure the financial responsibility of a more expensive university. Though my parents are both extremely hard workers, my father started a housing construction company right before the crash of the housing market and we have suffered significant financial loss.

Due to this, in order to support my dreams of becoming a speech pathologist, I needed to find an affordable program. Though I am only starting out in Southern's communication disorders program, it has excelled my expectations. Southern has dedicated and passionate teachers who work hard to provide students with an exceptional education. My classes are challenging and rewarding and I know that I am receiving an education that will successfully prepare me for my future year.

Furthermore, Southern's student life had provided me with a place and a voice on campus. I am a Representative-at-Large for Southern's Student Government Association, a member of the sorority Omega Zeta Pi, and the Vice-President of the Freshman Class.

I want to thank you for providing Southern with the resources necessary to give students the experience they deserve and I implore you to continue supporting ConnSCU system. It is invaluable for so many students who need to find an education that will not put them in debt for the rest of their lives.

Thank you.