

Testimony Regarding the Budget and Higher Education
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Good evening. My name is Joey Carvalho and I am from Putnam, Connecticut. As a current undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut and as a recent graduate of Quinebaug Valley Community College, I testify in opposition to Governor Malloy's proposed budget as it pertains to Connecticut's Universities, Colleges and Students.

I am proud to live in a state that is home to one of the highest percentages of college graduates in the country. As of 2010, 45.9% of Connecticut's residents between the ages of 25 and 34 had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. But for my hometown of Putnam, only 17.3% of people in the same age group had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. At a time when higher education needs to be promoted and be made more accessible, prospective college students all around the state are receiving mixed signals from our state government. What often ends up being heard is, "college isn't a priority."

I come to you as a citizen witnessing an uncomfortable new normal. I know times are tough in light of the projected budget deficit and I can appreciate that the state needs to make equally tough decisions. I hope my brief testimony gives you just one way, of many, that these cuts affect real people. Please think twice (maybe even three times) before asking students to pay more for something they already can't afford.

Thank you for your time.