

February 24, 2015

Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly

Subject: UConn's funding

First, I want to thank you for your support of UConn in the past, which has been admirable when compared to levels of higher education funding in other states nationally. Because of my teaching commitments, I am unable to speak to you during the public budget hearing. However, I am urging you to preserve full funding for the University of Connecticut.

UConn occupies a unique place in Connecticut's higher education history. UConn is a Land Grant university, which serves the state by educating professions and fostering economic development. It has also become a significant national research university. The National League of Nursing has designated the UConn School of Nursing as a Center of Excellence for Research. Only one in five institutions in the United States have received this honor. This distinguishes UConn from other schools of nursing and makes it a highly sought out preference for those who wish to attain a nursing degree. Without funding, we will be unable to sustain existing initiatives, recruit, and retain new faculty, many of whom are highly competitive and can take their pick of positions.

The proposed budget cuts will begin a cascade of events, which I hope, can be prevented. These events include a reduction in faculty with corresponding reductions in courses, decreased ability to be research focused, students' in jeopardy of completing degrees on time and, the university's ability to grow its enrollments.

I urge you to reconsider the governor's proposed budget in order to find ways of restoring funding to UConn.

Respectfully,

*Debra*

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