

Daniel Byrd

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Hello, my name is Daniel Byrd and I am a member of the Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Connecticut. Thank you for allowing me to testify in front of you today. I am so proud to be a student at UConn. I am thankful everyday that I am able to attend such a great university that offers me so many opportunities. You can ask any of my friends and they will say that nobody is more proud to be a Husky than me.

However, I am very concerned about the proposed 40 million dollar cut to the Universities budget. I fear this will have massive consequences on current and future students at the University. If you pass this budget with the cuts to UConn, many changes will occur, but I am concerned with two changes in particular. First, tuition will be more likely to increase at a faster rate than it already does. So many people in this state take pride in UConn, as I do, for being able to provide world-class education at such an affordable price. These cuts jeopardize that. Second, the proportion of in-state to out-of-state students will change. To make up for the decrease in funding, more out-of-state students will be accepted to the university, eliminating the opportunity for thousands of Connecticut students to attend the flagship university in their state.

These cuts are not just numbers on a page. These cuts will affect real families in Connecticut. Cutting 40 million dollars from UConn's budget, and subsequently forcing the Board of Trustees to increase tuition, will make it harder for lower income parents to send their children to UConn. Somebody like my sister, a junior in high school who will be applying to UConn next year, who was born and raised in this great state, may be denied the opportunity to attend this University when she otherwise may have gotten in if these cuts did not go through. If we want to keep people in this state, we must prioritize educating our student in this state.

I urge you all, please do not allow these cuts to go through. This will not only have negative impacts on students and families, but on the state as a whole. We all need to make sure UConn continues to provide the best education possible to students from Connecticut to create a dynamic workforce for this state. Like I said, I proud of this school and of the opportunities it affords me. Please don't take that away from students. Thank you.