

Good evening,

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee, I am Jim Lowe, Assistant Vice Provost and Executive Director of the Center for Career Development at the University of Connecticut. My department serves the needs of over 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students in Storrs and our 5 regional campuses. I have worked at UConn for four years, the past two of which have been in my current capacity.

I'd like to start by thanking you for your ongoing support of the mission of UConn as well as for your time this evening. I can certainly understand the challenge that you are facing in your attempt to reduce the current state budget deficit and I am indeed grateful that you are working to address this in a thoughtful and diligent manner.

With that being said, the recommended budget released last week creates an approximate gap of \$40 million between state funding and what is absolutely essential to operate the university next year.

A reduction to the appropriation in that amount would without question have a devastating impact on our ability to provide our students with the programs and experiences needed as they identify a course of study and pursue opportunities to become contributing members of the state community. Whether their pursuits lead them to post graduate studies, careers in the corporate arena or the world of non-profit, it is through relevant and innovative program offerings that we assist students in this journey from the very first day that they arrive at UConn through graduation and beyond.

These deep cuts would reverse the progress we achieved at UConn and jeopardize the traction we made in preparing our students for life beyond academia. My department, the Center for Career Development, regularly partners with employers throughout the state, from small start-ups to Fortune 500 companies and not-for profits to connect them with the talent and human capital that they so desperately need in order to

grow and thrive here in Connecticut. Reducing state support for such key resources will negatively impact not only our students but the economy of the state as well.

One of the main reasons that I initially accepted a position here at UConn, moving from the corporate arena to academia, and remain here today, is largely due to the dynamic investment that the state has made in our growth.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me. I'd like to conclude on a personal note, my father graduated from UConn many years ago. He immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 3 years old and was the first person in his family to ever attend college. He went on to become a partner with one of the largest accounting firms in the world. When I was growing up he always told me that he owed his success to UConn. We have so many students today, whether or not they are first generation, that depend on our support and guidance, just like my father did, to shape how they will make their mark on the world. Please ensure that we receive the necessary funding to continue the amazing work that we do for this generation of students and many generations to come. Thank you!