

Andrew Stern
UConn Undergraduate Student Government

Good evening. My name is Andrew Stern, and I am a freshman at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. I am originally from the neighboring state of Rhode Island. Last year, I went through the gruesome process that so many of us go through: applying to college. Although I had no idea where I wanted to spend the next four years of my life, I knew that at a bare minimum, I wanted two things: a school with great academics and affordability. After examining all of the schools from which I received acceptance, I found the University of Connecticut to be the best option. Out of the schools that I had received acceptance letters from with similar academic standing, UConn was the most affordable. Even when comparing it to my \$8,000 annual scholarship from the University of Vermont it was wisest for me to go to UConn. However, recently I have been informed that UConn will increase tuition in order to make up for cuts. Too many out-of-staters, including myself, who are already paying over \$20,000 more than in-state students would be detrimentally affected by these cuts. Personally, for the same amount as the proposed increase I could have attended many other public or even private schools. My friend Mike, who lives on my dorm floor, is paying full out-of-state tuition from New Jersey and told me that if the tuition increases he will no longer be able to attend UConn. This demonstrates how these huge cuts, which will cause tuition increases for both in-state and out-of-state students, will lead to less demand for this University from its coveted out-of-staters. State college is meant to be affordable. I implore this body to reconsider.