

Daniel Byrd  
Senator –Undergraduate Student Government  
National Liaison to the External Affairs Committee  
University of Connecticut  
HB 6118  
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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 here to advocate on behalf of the student body in support of a second Undergraduate Student Trustee at the University of Connecticut. I think that students need to have greater representation on the Board of Trustees as big decisions will be made at this University in the coming months and years.

The undergraduate students at UConn got a Trustee on the Board in 1975. UConn has grown a tremendous amount since that time. Over the past forty years, the University has seen a huge increase in the number of students, yet, students still only have one member on the Board of Trustees. It is time to give the student body the increased representation they deserve.

Many of the decisions that the Board of Trustees make impact students. Whether it is programming cuts, increased tuition, or changing the in-state, out-of-state mix, students will be affected. So student deserve a greater say in these manners. Many of these important topics will be brought up in the coming months and years with the potential budget cuts to the University of Connecticut. Students have shown an interest in contributing to the larger dialogue. Students have come together, not only today, but the past couple of weeks, to make their voices heard on issues will affect them. It is important that we are given more institutional power to have a hand in these decisions that directly affect us. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I hope you move this bill through committee. Thank you.