



University of Bridgeport

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**Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee
From
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As the Vice President for Administration and Finance of the University of Bridgeport (UB), I am **submitting testimony in opposition to Governor Malloy's budget proposal to exclude Connecticut students who attend Connecticut private colleges from receiving state financial aid funds through the Governor's Scholarship Program, beginning next year.**

The proposal would unfairly increase hardship on our neediest students. These cuts will make it harder for low-income workers and their children to gain the skills they need to get a better paying job.

The University of Bridgeport educates a student body that is disproportionately low-income. Currently, 548 UB students receive the Connecticut Governor's scholarship.

- 66% of these recipients are low-income minority students, and their average GPA is over 3.0.
- These students are studying in fields and gaining access to opportunity through such fields as Accounting, Biology, Business Administration, Criminal Justice and Human Security, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Dental Hygiene, Electrical Engineering, Graphic Design, Health Sciences and Psychology. There is no surer way of overcoming the huge economic inequalities than access to the professions.
- Of the recipients, 100% depend on financial aid (Pell Grant and/or other grants, scholarships and loans) to obtain their education
- And 86% come from households whose annual income meets the highest level of need.

In sum, this proposal is not what Connecticut needs; it will not encourage economic growth. As an economic engine, it is important to note that private higher education organizations are one of the largest employers in Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to have input on this critical issue of the Governor's Biennial Budget.