



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

**Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee
from
Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D.
President – University of Saint Joseph**

February 24, 2015

On behalf of the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, **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 cut \$4.6 million in FY16 and \$7.6 million FY17 with further cuts assumed in future years as current recipients graduate.

The University of Saint Joseph is deeply concerned about proposed reductions in the Governor's Scholarship program and the impact that such reductions would have on our ability to provide quality educational opportunities to Connecticut students.

The mission of the University of Saint Joseph is to serve the underserved. Currently, the University enrolls approximately 1,000 undergraduate students, of whom 89% are Connecticut residents. Approximately 42% are Pell-eligible (i.e. low income), and more than 85% receive some form of aid; many are first generation college students. With an average class size of 15 students, the University is uniquely equipped to handle first generation and economically-challenged students who would likely struggle elsewhere. Our small class sizes, faculty, advising and academic support services are better able to provide the personalized academic support that helps ensure student success.

The University is not an elite, wealthy, private institution. With a small endowment (\$25 million) and a relatively needy student population, the University's students rely heavily on financial support from all sources, including the Governor's Scholarship program. Historically, up to 60% of the University's undergraduate students receive funding from this program. However, the University has seen the state's support decrease from a high of \$1.5 million in 2008 to \$825 thousand in 2014, with the threat of further reductions. These funds provide direct support to Connecticut students. Reductions in the funding will mean that the University of Saint Joseph may not be able to continue to provide the current level of educational support to deserving young people from Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D.
President

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