

Zachary Gershman

“When we run as Republican-lite, we lose... Let us be Democrats once again”. These were the words recently spoken by Governor Malloy despite the nearly 40 million dollar shortfall in his budget towards funding the University of Connecticut. My name is Zachary Gershman, and I am a senior at the University of Connecticut majoring in Political Science on a track to graduate in only three years. In my department, Poly Sci, we have already been hurting. Some of the professors working in the department have seen their wages freeze, or actually decrease since the time of their initial employment due to budget cuts, despite rising standards of living. In addition to this, the department was unable to take on new grad students last semester due to already existing budget shortfalls. I do not wish to speculate on the kinds of new cuts that would somehow have to be met if this planned funding shortfall goes through.

As an out of state-student at UCONN my total costs for one year of college at a public university before assistance is over \$45,000. I have worked in student employment for nearly three years now for just above minimum wage, on top of a full class load, an unpaid research internship in my department, and working on my campus to represent the ideals of Progressivism and the Democratic Party with the UCONN College Democrats. In the field of Political Science, one of the leading questions today is in explaining why it is that young people don't vote. My belief is that a part of this is that young people don't understand the consequences of government until they see it for their own eyes, until it affects them individually. We need to stand up for education, we need to support the vanguard of Public Education in this state, UCONN, so that we can pass the mantle of progressivism to the next generation. We need to not allow this failure to properly fund our largest public university pass on to those who cannot afford it. We need to do this so that we cannot just run on ideals that aren't Republican-lite, but govern as Democrats.