

Hello, my name is Ariana Javidi and I am a freshman at the University of Connecticut.

I am very concerned about the impact that the proposed cuts will have on the quality of my education at UConn.

Immense cuts to education funding in the proposed budget plan threaten the future of public universities and low-performing schools in Connecticut. Under the new plan, UConn alone is estimated to receive a \$40 million reduction in state funds, a sum crucial for the operation of the university in the coming school year. With a huge discrepancy between actual and needed state funding, the University will have no choice but to implement across the board cuts - hurting students, faculty, and staff alike. Administrators will be faced with impossible challenges of where and what to cut; to what degree they should limit the number of need-based scholarships to students depending on that money to put them through school; how many less teaching assistants they should hire, increasing financial stress for graduate students trying to get their masters or doctorate; how much less research money they can afford to give out to faculty to maintain the reputation of UConn as a top research university; discontinuing student programs they can't afford to support; decreasing arts funding and other student extracurricular activities that are essential to teaching students skills they cannot acquire in the classroom.

All of the cuts that will have to be made collectively impact my experience at the university. Larger class sizes, fewer research scholarships, lower number of TAs - these consequences will all undermine my academic experience. During my college selection process, academic standing and academic opportunities were critically important and

UConn offered affordability as well as high academic ranking. The state of Connecticut needs to look at UConn, not as a liability, but as an asset; our graduates go on to create new businesses, innovate existing companies, and bring ideas to our state and local government. UConn graduates are the future of Connecticut and funding cuts of this magnitude undermine the quality of the university and send talented students elsewhere.