

Connor McNaboe, UConn Undergraduate Student Government

Five years ago, I tagged along with my brother and mom when he was first touring the University Of Connecticut. From the second I stepped on the campus to the second I left, I was in love. Throughout high school, I had my heart set on UConn. I worked hard to get good grades to get into the academically advanced University that UConn has become. I've been a resident of Connecticut for my whole life, and receiving the acceptance letter from this State's flagship University was one of the most exciting and gratifying moments of my life. The University of Connecticut is my dream school, and I am a Husky.

Now, proposed before you is a 40 million dollar cut to the University of Connecticut. It's not just a cut to UConn. It's a cut to the education and future of the thousands of students who are currently enrolled, and possibly to future students as well. We hear so often how important education is to the future of this state and to this generation. We hear about how we need to invest in our youth and prepare them to join the workforce. Governor Dannel Malloy stated that he would not cut primary or secondary education. He clearly stated that he would not cut teachers either. So my question to the Governor is why does that promise stop at UConn? Governor Malloy also repeatedly stated that he would not raise taxes. If the General Assembly passes this budget and cuts 40 million dollars from the block grant to the University of Connecticut, tuition will go up. This blow to UConn's budget will make it almost impossible to not raise tuition significantly. With students and parents bearing a larger cost of attending the University, we will essentially be taxed more. We will need to pay more for less. Less staff, less student services, and less of the school that I have had my heart set on since I was in 8th grade.