

Good Evening,

My name is Tyler Ryff and I am currently a Junior Political Science major at the University of Connecticut. For those of you who think I look familiar, I once held a school internship for a Republican senator here at the state capitol. That being said, I'm a true blue democrat. During this past gubernatorial election cycle, I couldn't understand why so many people held opposition to Governor Malloy's campaign. I have to say I was one of his staunchest supporters, and still feel as though I am today.

For those who may not know, I'm only a transfer student. I came to UConn originally from Southern Connecticut State University. As it was, UConn held a distinguished reputation throughout the country for its advanced programs and education, which is why I knew that it was the perfect fit for me. However, as I am paying my own way through college, the major decision came down to cost. I knew that I wanted to stay in Connecticut, but for many friends of mine, Connecticut wasn't even an option. As the state begins to cut more and more money each year, it's driving out the next generation of Connecticut residents. If anything, we should be providing a low cost education to encourage young people to move here and settle down.

Governor Malloy promised his voters that he would not impose any new taxes, which is why I know in my heart that he wouldn't impose a new "tax," if you will, on middle class families trying to send their kids to college, or for that matter on those students who have to pay their own way through various part time jobs, the very same of which he argued, is not enough to get by.

I hope Governor Malloy knows what a devastating burden this would put on students, and I hope everyone takes careful consideration before trying to balance the budget on the backs of the students at the University of Connecticut. Thank You.