

Testimony  
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If you observe the government of a successful society, you will find its foundation rooted in education. A government's prioritization of education demonstrates its concern not only for the future of its citizens, but it also for the immediate health and well being of its society. As a woman born and raised in Connecticut, I have grown up grateful to have the privilege of living in a state renowned for its public education. I have always had a strong sense of confidence in my local and state government's ability to prioritize education, from my time at Tariffville elementary school, and up to now, as I attend the University of Connecticut.

I am sad to say this confidence has been shaken. The proposed forty million dollar budget cuts being put forward by the legislature sends a message to public students that is very different from the one I grew up with. It tells us, the students, that this state has priorities that do not include public education. Tuition increases and decreases in services are inevitable with our budget being affected so drastically, and as a student I fear for what this means for future Huskies. College level education in this country, even publicly funded, is already too expensive to be a feasible option for an enormous amount of students, and this budget cut only burdens struggling students and families further.

We, as students at the University of Connecticut, implore the legislature to re-evaluate its priorities and realize the essential services that UConn is providing to both its students and the community. Make attending a reputable, publicly funded college a possibility for Connecticut students. Demonstrate Connecticut's dedication to standing by our students in fighting for affordable education. Say no to these budget cuts.