



# ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Testimony for the  
Appropriations Committee  
Michelle Cochran  
Albertus Magnus College  
February 10, 2016

On behalf of Albertus Magnus College, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 5044, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017, which seeks to cut and consolidate the Governor's Scholarship Program.

I would like to first thank the legislature's ongoing support to the private non-profit sector of higher education by continuing to fund of the Governor's Scholarship Program. I understand that the state is facing very significant fiscal challenges that require each agency and nearly every program to incur budgetary cuts of roughly 5.75%; however, please hear my request to not cut the Governor's Scholarship Program any further. The program invests in some of our state's brightest and neediest students while attending a College that best suits their educational needs.

Albertus Magnus College has experienced a 30% reduction in funding between the first year of the Governor's Scholarship Program and now, totaling just over \$400,000, which resulted in Albertus giving out 267 less Governor's Scholarship Program Grants. Albertus Magnus College is a strong supporter of Connecticut students, investing an average of \$16,000 institutional grant dollars per traditional day students, with close to 94% of day student's receiving financial aid. Albertus' student body is comprised of 96% Connecticut residents of which 63% are Pell eligible.

It is our mission as a College to provide students with access and opportunities. Limiting the funding to the Governor's Scholarship hinders our ability to assist low-income students in achieving their dreams. Please do not adopt the Governor's recommendations to cut and consolidate this program.