

**Meaghan Gorman Testimony  
Eastern Connecticut State University**

**Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations  
Committee Budget Hearing  
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

To whom it should concern:

My name is Meaghan Gorman, and I am currently an undergraduate student at Eastern Connecticut State University, and I am angry, as should anybody in this state that pays a modicum of attention to life in Connecticut.

The budget problems in Connecticut have become engorged beyond the title of 'situation', it has become an overwhelming battle for the future of our state. This battle has comprised of mere skirmishes for the past years, but each one has intensified, and each year the public has been assuaged with promises of reforms, changes, and hope. Nowhere do I see this 'change' happening within our State, rather these reforms have been rushed, partisan, heavy-handed, and overwhelmingly enforced to ineffective ends.

There are funds for *new baseball stadiums*, but not for **Mental Health**. There are funds for *a bus line that has no riding populace*, but not for crumbling roads, bridges, and **Infrastructure**. There are funds for countless other cockamamie programs and agendas but not for **Higher Education**.

**Higher Education is vitally important**, and I do not say this because my status as a student makes me biased, but rather because education is something that should be immeasurably

important to everyone in this state. We have no hope of working our way out from under ineffective administrations, crushing debt, failed economies, unless sound investments are made in the education of the next generation.

For the foreseeable future, students that graduate with a BA in Connecticut are not going to stay in Connecticut: there is nothing for us here.

All the incentive programs in the world could be passed, but their cost will be displaced onto those few remaining citizens that have jobs and pay taxes, but those that are receiving the incentives have nowhere to go. They have nothing to strive and live for, because at the end of every broken down, cracked road in Connecticut there is another formerly industrious ghost town, full of unemployed specters, where they too will eventually reside.

I implore you, **do not cut Higher Education**; for the past three years **nothing but cuts and rescissions have been made to the already struggling higher education systems**. Students are carrying this burden, entire families are carrying it with the hope of giving their children a pathway to a life they never could have achieved. This hope still endures but it is fading, being strangled by budget incompetencies and horribly misguided initiatives. We are the future, and this budget as it stands is killing students, it is killing **us**.

Save the State of Connecticut. Save Higher Education.

Sincerely,

Meaghan McFall Gorman

Eastern Connecticut State University, Class of 2017