

**Harrison Brooks Testimony  
Eastern Connecticut State University**

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this testimony today with a sincere sense of disappointment. Disappointment with the Governor. Disappointment with the Appropriations Committee. And most of all, disappointment with Connecticut, and the state that has been my home for almost 20 years. A couple years ago, if you had asked me if I would stay in this state after graduating, I would have passionately proclaimed that I have faith in the direction of Connecticut and that it would continue to be my home after college. But, alas, this opinion no longer holds true.

It is because of steep budget rescissions that my education at Eastern has become a line item on a list, a category in the Governor's rubber stamp budget deficit. College is supposed to offer its attendees a wide range of progressive knowledge that can be applied in an ever-evolving workforce; however, because of these potential budget constraints, we will be set back 10 years and all hope of accruing applicable knowledge will come to a standstill.

Today, I stand with all of my peers and mentors at Eastern in fighting back against this outrageous proposal to cut our budget. If these rescissions get approved, my education at Eastern and my future diploma will have no credence, they will have little value to employers that currently seek liberally-educated students such as myself and my fellow students.

I ask you today to politicize my education no longer, to look back and contemplate your roots and how you got to where you are today. Keep in mind that not only my future, but the future of this state, lay in the palm of your hand. Don't botch it.

Regards,

Harrison William Brooks