

**Christina Welch Testimony
Eastern Connecticut State University**

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

My name is Christina Welch and I am currently a sophomore at Eastern Connecticut State University. I am a double major in Biology and Secondary education. I immensely value the quality of education I am receiving at Eastern Connecticut State University thus far. And I can only look forward to the education I will continue to receive throughout my time at Eastern. However, my immediate concern is regarding the proposed CSCU system budget cuts. Providing a high quality post-secondary education that enables individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations is the mission for all Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. These proposed budget cuts will consequently compromise the quality of our education. The current generations that are enrolled in these Connecticut State Colleges and Universities hold the future in their hands; this system, these colleges and these students are the priority. These severe budget cuts make me question who is truly considered the priority if we are proposing to cut 26\$ Million across the CSCU. If we are not willing to support and provide adequate funding and resources for our colleges and universities than we are ultimately deteriorating the quality of

education for our current and future generations. It seems that higher education is always the first to get conceded. But it is necessary to keep in mind that this proposed budget cut, while it may not be raising the tuition for the students, it is negatively impacting the nature and value of each and every college and institution. As a student who takes her academics extremely seriously and only with the utmost dedication, I am disappointed that as a state we will sacrifice the quality of our colleges and universities to satisfy the economic needs of our state.