



**UNIVERSITY OF
BRIDGEPORT**

Opening doors. Building futures.

Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee
Christine Falzerano
University of Bridgeport
February 10, 2016

On behalf of the University of Bridgeport, 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.

We are grateful for the legislature's ongoing support of our sector through maintaining funding of the Governor's Scholarship Program. We understand that the state is facing very significant fiscal but hope that you will not cut the Governor's Scholarship any further.

The program supports some of our state's neediest students. Over 75% of our students at UB come from families with incomes under \$60,000. 47% of our students are Pell eligible. Our institutions' allocation has already been reduced 21% since 2013, when the Governor's Scholarship Program was created. In 2012, we received \$1,157,044 in need-based aid. This year we received \$792,493 in need-based aid. In 2012 UB was able to award 582 students need based state aid. This year we awarded only 350.

Please do not consolidate this grant program and do not give the Office of Higher Education (OHE) greater discretion to determine how much funding is allocated to this program.