

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee
Submitted by Dominic Yoia
February 10, 2016

On behalf of Quinnipiac University, I am pleased to submit 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 continue to be grateful to the General Assembly for its continued support of the Governor's Scholarship Program. This program is essential to needy and deserving Connecticut residents attending Quinnipiac. We understand that the state is facing very significant fiscal challenges and that every agency and nearly every program may be facing cuts of at least 5.75%

I would like to strongly encourage you to preserve the Governor's Scholarship Program at current levels for the following reasons:

- a. The program supports our state's neediest students.
- b. Quinnipiac University's allocation has already been reduced 53.7% since 2013, when the Governor's Scholarship Program was created.
- c. In 2012, we received \$1,861,642 in need-based aid. This year we received \$704,984 in need-based aid. This decrease in funding equates to 138 less recipients. While we cannot quantify just how many Connecticut students would have attended Quinnipiac University had funding been provided, it is reasonable to assume hundreds have been adversely impacted by the cuts.
- d. Quinnipiac University is proud to educate 1,872 Connecticut students. 379 are Pell Grant eligible, and we award \$9,558,699 in NEED-BASED AID to Connecticut undergraduate students.

I ask that you 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. OHE has significant discretion already and it has led to challenges for students and institutions. Quinnipiac University and CCIC member institutions want to serve as partners with the State of Connecticut and provide low-income Connecticut students access to quality education.

For these reasons, I ask that you do not adopt the Governor's recommendations to cut and consolidate this program.