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Co-chairs, ranking members, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the UConn. My name is Austin Langer, and I am one of the residential senators in our student government. Today the government is tasked with making the tough financial decisions. Cuts to the UConn budget may solve today's budget crisis, but will have a drastic impact on the future of our flagship institution.

My constituency is mostly made up of freshman students who are in the honors program. The Honors program is just a small microcosm that captures the intellectual vitality and diversity of UConn. My honors program colleagues and I discussed in a university class, a course offered up to freshman to help them adjust to college. These scholars, including myself, were accepted to some of the prestigious universities throughout the world, yet we all ultimately chose to come here.

We chose UConn, specifically the honors program, because of the opportunity to work closely with our professors in both the classroom and outside in their perspective fields. My first semester, I elected to take the history at the honors level. Instead of sitting in a lecture hall with more than 200 kids, I was able to read and discuss with just ten other kids. This class allowed me to make some of my closest friends I have here at UConn, and develop a relationship with my professor. My history professor actually wrote me my letter of recommendation for a political science program this summer. If I had taken it in a larger setting, I would not have gained that personal connection.

Another reason why many of my friends are here in the honors program is the research. As members of the honors program, we have the ability to partake in research at an earlier age than many rivalry universities. Some of my friends were hired to work in labs their first semester freshman year. This is one thing I have noticed is both rare and unique to UConn.

Both myself and my friends are worried what is going to happen to the honors program if the budget cuts are made at the extent they are planned. Top students will no longer be choosing UConn over other universities. The small class and the research opportunities are what draw honors program students into the university.

I am extremely proud to call myself a member of the honors program. My colleagues and I are here because of the great resources UConn has to offer us. We honestly cannot get these advantages at any other university.

I would just quickly like to highlight the devastating impact the budget cuts will have on out-of-state students. Many of my friends came here from all over the nation. From Sunnyvale, California to Hampton, New Hampshire they choose UConn over their own state schools because of the promise of small class and research. I fear that if these budget cuts are implemented many top students from other states will either elect to go to their own state school or choose to go to a private school. UConn will lose some of the greatest members of the

community because of the diminishing opportunity associated with these budget cuts. Therefore on the behalf of myself, and the honors program I hope that we can come to the consensus these budget cuts would only be detrimental our university.