Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the committee, my name is Cynthia James, I am a 56 years young Middletown, Connecticut tax paying resident, Cancer Survivor, and a graduate student of the COSC.

When I count my blessings, I always add in the great State of Connecticut, and Charter Oak State College. Connecticut is where I live and Charter Oak State College is where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Administration. I am an Operations Manager at Yale University, Smilow Cancer Hospital – (not only am I an employee, I am a patient). I am here to encourage you this evening to continue supporting colleges like COSC.

There are many initiatives and funding bills that help women, and women of color, find jobs, and housing, they are very much needed, and applauded. But, the funding for our colleges, not only help women, and women of color, find jobs, they help women, and women of color get an education, so that they can own their jobs, and be entrepreneurs, own their own homes, and work in management, and be in the decision making process, as Senator DeLauro is here in the state capitol.

As a middle-aged African American Woman in Management I feel having my Bachelor’s Degree, is an example to younger women, and women of color, that they too can go back to school. Chip away at the education barrier that stands in their way of landing a better job, and getting a better place to live and raise their families. I believe having this degree,
has opened many doors for me and is living proof that an education can open doors to the office, and the home! That’s why I am here today, asking you to continue supporting Charter Oak State College, so that it will continue to be here for the other young ladies, like me.

Thank You,