Testimony

I would like to start with a powerful quote from Michael Moores essay Idiot Nation. “We live in a country where 44 million can’t read and perhaps close to another 200 million can read but usually don’t. Well friends you and I are leaving in a very scary place. A nation that not only churns our illiterate students BUT GOES OUT OF THEIR WAY TO REMAIN IGNORANT AND STUPID is a nation that should not be running the world.”

My name is Jacqueline Sosnoski I am a U.S. Veteran, attending Three Rivers Community College by the gift of grants and scholarships. These do not cover all my expenses. Even while working two part time jobs and owning my own small businesses I still struggle to pay bills and buy the books and materials I need to be successful. My purpose is to become a Registered Nurse. At 26 years old I am a non-traditional first-generation student who battles many learning and mental disabilities including PTSD. The thought of returning to college was intimidating if not impossible to imagine. The professors and staff of Three Rivers Community College embraced me and helped me transition into a successful student.

During the fall semester I took Psychology, Math, English, and American Sign Language where I exceeded even my own expectations and earned a GPA of 3.92. I hold the position of President of the Three Rivers Veterans Organization and last fall we were able to donate 80 complete thanksgivings day meals including turkey to the Norwich veterans center. I also hold the position of president for Phi Theta Kappa an (international honors society for two-year colleges). I also participate in the clubs mind your mental health and Voices of the River, an acapella group where I use my knowledge of American Sign Language to sign songs. While attending Three Rivers I found a love for American Sign Language and plan on perusing a
additional degree as an ASL medical interpreter. A profession that is seriously understaffed.

Along with my full-time studies I am a Teacher assistant.

My goals and the goals of my peers can only be achieved by your continued funding of higher education in Connecticut. To decrease or even maintain the current level of funding would be deleterious to not only Connecticut but America. The only answer then can be to increase the funding of Connecticut's colleges so more Americans will be able to follow their dreams as I am. As Walt Disney once said, “there is a great big beautiful tomorrow shining at the end of every day”.

Jacqueline M. Sosnoski