Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representatives DiMassa and Horn, and members of the Appropriations Committee;

My name is Brian Bedon, and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut. I am a Management Information Systems major in the School of Business. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education.

State appropriation support for the University of Connecticut is necessary and important because of UConn’s significance as a valued educational institute that is instrumental in the education of a highly skilled workforce for the state. The education experience of my peers and I at UConn prepare us for the challenges and responsibilities of the real world outside of school, teaching us hard skills such as programming in a new language or having a better understanding on the real-world application on how the economy works, and soft skills such as meeting a diverse group of new people as we engage in the community around us. As an undergraduate student in a major such as Management Information Systems, my UConn degree will prepare me to tackle challenges in the technology field, which is an ever-growing field not only in just the State of Connecticut, but globally as well. Continued state investment in UConn adds value to a UConn degree, making employers eager to hire UConn graduates and alumni across the state. As a on-campus intern for Cigna Insurance, who I have spent the last 2 summers with them as a full-time intern, I have personally seen the high amounts of Connecticut students hailing from UConn, utilizing the skills and knowledge gained from attending this university to contribute to their teams and produce outstanding work.

Lastly, support for UConn will provide over 20,000 undergraduates with quality education that is affordable for families of different backgrounds such as mine. Affordability was a big influence for many students decision such as myself to come to UConn for an education worth our hard work through scholarships and grants, as well as their families own hard work through supporting us any way they can. UConn is a vital asset to the State of Connecticut and maintaining state support for UConn is critical to my continued access to quality education. In the past, the state budget has provided generous support to UConn’s important mission of providing education, service, and research to the state and residents of Connecticut, and I strongly encourage you to continue this generosity in the next budget.

Sincerely,

Brian Bedon
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