Appropriation Committee Testimony

Members of the appropriation committee, my fellow panelists, esteemed guests & visitors and of course my beloved Huskies - a good evening to all of you. My name is Jon-Marc Anthony McGregor and I am a sophomore chemical engineering major at the University of Connecticut pursuing double minors in Chemistry and Mathematics. Before I begin, I would like to formally express how honored and grateful I am to be given this once in a lifetime opportunity to speak on a pressing matter that not only do I think will deeply affect our striving university, but will thereafter influence the growth of our state as well.

I owe all that I am now to UConn. I am seen as a migrant from Jamaica, first generation college student, McNair and Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Scholar, peer mentor for the School of Engineering’s BRIDGE Program, student leader of multiple organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers and UCONN’s Engineering Ambassadors, academic tutor or even an undergraduate researcher in chemical engineering working on projects to better Hartford County. But above all, I am simply a believer, striving to defy the odds that have restrained my family, by earning a college degree. Like many, I am one-step closer to achieving my dream of becoming a professional engineer due to the resources available at the university. Upon graduation, I aim to work in the Research and Development Sector of the chemical industry so that I can continue to find creative and effective solutions that could better our environment. I am confident that I am on the right path due to the instrumental opportunities that the university provides which allow us to find our niche on campus and later on in society.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that our future as a state truly depends on our ability to develop new generations of intellectual and skilled talent that employers need to compete and succeed in today’s global economy. For years, there is no doubt UConn has been gradually making a unique contribution to the success of this state. Cuts will alter all the great values that make our university a sanctuary of academic excellence and a premier destination for students, like myself, who seek an institution that is not only financially affordable but also has a high emphasis on diversity and inclusion especially within our engineering program.

All we ask is for you to not give up on us and continue to believe in the mission this university is based upon. With our state-of-the-art facilities alongside our hardworking faculty and staff we are raising our academic performance, closing the achievement gap and giving every single student an opportunity to succeed. I truly admire these CORE values and it is because of them that I am proud to call myself a Husky.