To the Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Derek Pan. I am an undergraduate student from the University of Connecticut and serve as a Senator and the Chair of the Student Services Committee of the University of Connecticut’s Undergraduate Student Government.

Thank you for your prior support of the University of Connecticut, this State’s flagship university, and we hope to have your continued support in this coming year. The University of Connecticut is a beacon of intellectual advancement, innovation, and leadership.

As an out of state student from California, I can attest to the fact that the University of Connecticut has been, and still continues to, attract an incredible caliber of students from all backgrounds and locations. UConn’s advantages, including generous financial support, incredible research, and numerous opportunities for professional development are made possible through the State’s support.

I am a leader in the UConn Undergraduate Student Government, a Founder and President of a global health service organization called Huskies for Haiti, a researcher in a neurobiology laboratory studying the effects of infection-induced hydrocephalus on early brain development, and a collegiate bowhunter in UConn Archery. UConn has offered me great opportunities for my professional development, and I now hope to become a physician and public servant who hopes to advocate for mental health issues.

I am now proud to be one of three Finalists to represent the University of Connecticut in the 2019 Harry S. Truman Scholarship competition, two of which are out of state students. This university truly seeks out, attracts, and cultivates the highest quality leaders, researchers, public servants, doctors, and professionals that this nation has to offer.

With your continued support, the University of Connecticut can continue to attract and develop the best from inside and outside the state. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Best Regards,
Derek Pan