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

My name is Alex Stamboulis, and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut. I am a finance major and am an active member in Women in Business, Finance Society, and Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education.

Support for UConn allows the university to recruit and retain dedicated and skilled faculty and staff, which is foundational to quality undergraduate education. I chose The University of Connecticut over other universities because of the prestigious reputation of the School of Business and the expert faculty.

In addition, support for UConn provides over 20,000 undergraduates like me with affordable and high-quality education. I was a Connecticut resident prior to enrolling at UConn. With this, affordability and access of a UConn education was a large influence on my decision to pursue my degree in state instead of going to a private college or an out of state university. It must be noted that declining state support would result in larger classes and higher tuition.

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,

Alexandra Stamboulis

Simsbury, Connecticut

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