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

My name is Yukang Zhu, and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut. As a transfer student, I have not decided my major yet, but I am planning to apply for the Marketing major. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education.

Support for UConn is instrumental in the education of a highly skilled workforce for the state. As an undergraduate student studying marketing, my UConn degree will prepare me to face any difficulties I would encounter in the future, more importantly, a much-needed skill that would benefit the society for the state of Connecticut.

Sufficient education funds would allow the university to recruit and retain dedicated and skilled faculty and staff, which is foundational to quality undergraduate education. As far as I know, I have taken part in many helpful activities, one of them is “Transfer connection” which would allow transfer students blend into the environment smoothly through semester-long activities and one-on-one peer supporting pattern. Moreover, without enough funds, such meaningful activities would no longer exist.

Moreover, the investment in UConn’s education is highly beneficial to the society which provides over 20,000 undergraduates like me with an affordable and high-quality education. The quality and accessibility of that education depend on continued investment.

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,
Yukang Zhu
Yukang.zhu@uconn.edu