Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 6072, An Act Providing Resources to Certain Students at Public Institutions of Higher Education.

My name is John Volin and I am the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Connecticut. The University of Connecticut (UConn) is proud to be the primary engine that feeds the “tech talent” pipeline in the state to support innovation and economic growth. Since the passage of the Next Generation Connecticut legislation in 2013, total undergraduate enrollment at UConn has increased by 1,677 students with enrollment in Storrs undergraduate enrollment in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) growing by 33%.

We are in support of the creation of increasing resources for students enrolled in degree programs related STEM related fields at institutions of higher education. There is a critical need to increase the number of students trained and educated in STEM related fields to meet the needs of Connecticut's current and future high-skilled work force. In addition, increasing resources will help provide access for those students who are most underserved and underrepresented in STEM fields.

Thank you for your continued support of UConn and our students.