

**Appropriations Committee  
Testimony  
Talking Points to Consider**

**When giving testimony; starting with your personal story and how the impacts will directly impact you, your research, your teaching or the student learning outcomes is key. The below bullets could help support or enhance your personal message.**

If enacted as proposed, the governor's budget would leave the university (both UConn and UConn Health) with a shortfall of \$159.8 million next year and \$197.3 million the following year compared to our budget request, creating an untenable situation that will have a detrimental impact on the university and Connecticut's students, families, businesses, and industry.

**Impact of the Cuts:**

- A cut of \$160 million from UConn's request is simply untenable and will have a lasting and detrimental impact on the University.
- Cuts of this size will dramatically increase time to graduation since there will be fewer faculty, fewer staff to support our faculty and our students, bigger and fewer classes. All of this will directly impact the cost to attend UConn, educational quality, and student experience. UConn's average time to graduation is 4.1 years – it should stay that way.
- Tuition and fee levels could increase significantly, making UConn less affordable to many Connecticut students. If the University tried to cover the Storrs portion of these cuts by raising tuition, it would mean an increase of 19% or \$3,000 more next year per student, above and beyond the already approved increase of \$660. This is not viable as UConn strives to be an affordable option, especially for Connecticut families.
- UConn is currently ranked #26<sup>th</sup> among public universities by U.S. News and World Report. This ranking could plummet as funding shortfalls directly impact factors that determine excellence, particularly university funding per student and the faculty-to-student ratio. Since parents and prospective students use these rankings to make decisions on which colleges to attend, you could see more high-achieving Connecticut students choosing out-of-state universities. These Connecticut residents will probably choose not to return to the state to work once they graduate.
- If the University needs to increase out-of-state enrollment to fill funding gaps, the result could be a further brain drain that sees high-achieving students enrolling in out-of-state institutions.

**Potential Talking Points:**

- UConn students are Connecticut's future, and they deserve investment.
- If the quality of a UConn education diminishes, then the quality of the workforce in Connecticut will follow suit. Is that something the state can afford at a time when our business sector is already struggling to find high-quality candidates?

- The ROI on every state dollar spent at UConn is incredible:
  - Over 43,000 students applied to UConn last year and more than 47,000 have applied for this fall; UConn is NOT experiencing the enrollment problems facing other CT colleges and universities.
  - 69% percent of our graduates are employed in Connecticut six months after graduation with an average salary of \$59,900.
  - Major employers like Aetna, Ernst & Young, Electric Boat, Pratt & Whitney, PWC, and KPMG clamor for our graduates.
  - The 71 companies in our technology incubator have created 516 jobs and raised \$183 million in FY22; since 2003, UConn supported startup companies have raised \$1.14 billion and 70% of companies that graduated from our incubator program have stayed in Connecticut
  - UConn filed 91 invention disclosures and 25 patents were issued in 2022
  - UConn awarded nearly 8,500 degrees last year, graduating 974 engineers, 365 nurses, 101 doctors, 49 dentists, and 151 pharmacists
  - More than 50% of all engineers in CT are UConn graduates, 60% of the dentists and 35% of the physicians were educated or have ties to UConn Health
  - UConn attracted almost \$317 M in federal funding, which created 1,191 jobs in 2022. For every research dollar UConn receives, it generates \$1.01 in economic output elsewhere in the state economy.
  - 800 UConn medical and dental residents annually provide critical healthcare resources to Greater Hartford area hospitals and community facilities throughout the state; and bring in >\$145 million per year in federal funds annually to hospitals throughout Central Connecticut, used to provide medical resident jobs.
  - UConn Health is the safety net provider of medical services for patients on Medicaid; most importantly, providing open access to specialty services, cardiac care, orthopedic surgery etc. and is the single largest provider of dental services to Medicaid recipients and the under- and uninsured in the state.
  - UConn physicians, dentists, residents, clinicians, and students provide thousands of hours of free health care to Connecticut's most medically vulnerable citizens, e.g., Migrant Farm Worker Clinics (throughout the state), South Park Inn Medical Clinic (Hartford), Head Start Dental Screening Program, Covenant Soup Kitchen Clinic (Willimantic), Homeless Hospitality Center Clinic (New London), St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen Clinic (Norwich), CT Mission of Mercy, Special Olympics Healthy Athletes/Special Smiles.
- Given these amazing returns, pulling back on investing in UConn makes no sense. What other state entity can contribute so meaningfully to Connecticut's society and our state's economic future?
- It is unfair for UConn students and patients to foot the bill for personnel costs that UConn has no say in and does not control.