



**Testimony regarding the Governor's proposed budget for the CT State University System
February 18, 2020**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Walker and Chairwoman Osten. My name is Zak Leavy and I am a legislative advocate for AFSCME Council 4 which represents over 30,000 public and private employees across Connecticut.

We urge the Appropriations Committee and the General Assembly to at least maintain the Governor's proposed budget for higher education. We appreciate and thank the Governor for not including any mergers or closures of campuses in the CSU system.

We operate on a very tight budget. We understand our state's financial challenges. But it is vital for Connecticut's economic future to maintain all of our current campuses in order to serve and educate our students. We also ask that debt free higher education through the Board or Regents system be maintained and expanded.

Thank you.