



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

GARY JONES, President



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RAY CURRY, Secretary-Treasurer

February 18, 2020

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

My name is Beverley Brakeman and I am the Regional Director of UAW Region 9A. UAW Region 9A has 35,000 active members living and working in New England, New York City and Puerto Rico.

I am here tonight on behalf of our members at the University of Connecticut Graduate Employees Union (GEU-UAW Local 6950) to testify on the Higher Education budget.

UAW members who work at UCONN include more than 2,300 graduate student Teaching and Research Assistants (TAs and RAs) and Post-Doctoral researchers. TAs teach, mentor and help to steer towards success thousands of undergraduate students every year. RAs and Post-Doctoral Researchers conduct groundbreaking research that helps to raise more than \$150 million in grant funding every year designed to improve people's lives and health.

Support and continued investment in UConn, helps develop a highly skilled workforce, maintain its reputation as a world class University, allow CT to attract the best and brightest, and support our economy by bringing in jobs and growth opportunity.

As total State support declines, UConn must increasingly rely on tuition revenue to cover costs. Maintaining our investment as a state is critical to avoid disproportionately shifting cost to students and working families. Preserving UConn as an affordable option for prospective students must be a priority in our effort to sustain and grow our state's educational infrastructure and excellence.

We urge this committee and this legislature to continue to support a state budget that allows UConn to maintain and grow its education, research and overall service to our state and residents, its employees and its students – present and future.

Thank you.

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