

Joshua Crow

University of Connecticut Student Testimony for Budget Appropriations Hearing

My mom every so often will tell a story of my first birthday. It was quite the occasion, as all first birthdays are, and everyone was curious as to what my first gift would be. It was nothing other than a UConn onesie, one that I wore for many years past its prime. Since that day, not a birthday of mine has passed where I did not receive what my grandfather would call a “subtle hint” as to where I was encouraged to go to college. This was actually for a good reason. The University of Connecticut has been as much a part of my family as it is a part of this state. My grandmother was an undergrad there during the 1960s and my parents both attended during the late 1980s. While living up in Sousa house in Towers Dormitory, my parents met and fell in love, so UConn for them was never just a school, but the beginning of a life that they spend together to this day. Because of this strong connection my family has to UConn Nation, I was raised to be a husky as well. I have watched the basketball games since I was a small child and once we were old enough, my parents kept my siblings and me entertained with many of the stories they made while in Storrs, CT. I knew of UConn’s trademark remote nature and frozen climate before I even knew where it was on a map, and I looked forward to the day in which I could go off as my mom and dad did to begin my adult life as a Husky. Shockingly, here I am, attending UConn as a Junior with my younger sister, a freshman, and if the trend continues, as I hope it does, my younger brother will join us when he graduates from high school next year. I, like my parents, have started to build the foundation of the rest of my life there. I have worked on my education, led the Undergrad Senate as its Speaker for two years and made good friends. Like my parents, I have found someone who loves and cherishes me, though we did not meet up in Towers. Most importantly, I have created my own stories to tell. Some things at UConn have not changed a bit, nor will they ever. But some things have changed a great deal. Every time my parents have dropped me and my sister off, they always talk about a new building that had risen up on campus, a new program had been created by the school, or about how UConn is competing at a higher level they ever dreamed it would in their day. These advancements are in large part due to the investment and trust this state has been willing to place in the University over the last 30 years. Now it is no secret our state has fallen on hard times. However, as it always has, the University of Connecticut stands as a beacon for all our families, not just mine, that we look to with optimism and hope as we work together to build our state back up to the prominence it deserves. I am here with my fellow huskies to ask that you continue the commitment to this institution that has given our state so much, so that when I drop my children off for their time as Huskies, I can marvel at the advancements our home has made together.

Thank you.