

WORKING FOR A BETTER UCONN

UCONN Graduate Employee Union
United Auto Workers, Local 6950
1734 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268



Testimony of Arianna Basche on behalf of the

Graduate Employee Union Local 6950
United Automobile Workers of America (GEU-UAW UCONN)

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 4, 2021

In support of: H.B. No. 6439 (Comm) An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, and Making Appropriations Therefor

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

My name is Arianna Basche, and I am both a graduate student and Teaching Assistant at the University of Connecticut and a member of the Graduate Employee Union (GEU-UAW Local 6950). In my role as TA, I teach First Year Writing, a required course at the University that equips students with the writing and thinking skills necessary for academic and professional success. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education.

Support for UConn directly stimulates Connecticut's economy, providing jobs throughout the state, bringing and keeping faculty, staff and their families to Connecticut, and driving innovation and entrepreneurship in the state.

I grew up in Connecticut, started out my professional life working in Hartford, and knew I wanted to stay in Connecticut. Thankfully, UConn offered me generous funding and the English Department is highly respected. This made my decision a no-brainer. My fiancé (a proud UConn alum) owns a home in Connecticut; because I chose to attend UConn, we did not have to relocate. We both want to make this state our home and contribute to the Connecticut economy. He wants to open his own small business as a land surveyor. I plan to continue teaching, writing for CT publications, and building community. I'm grateful that I did not have to uproot my life to pursue my graduate degree.

UConn is a vital asset to the State of Connecticut. In the past, the state budget has provided generous support to UConn's important mission of providing education, service, and research to the state and residents of Connecticut, and I strongly encourage you to continue this generosity in the next budget.

Sincerely,

Arianna Basche

M.A. Candidate & Teaching Assistant

Middletown, CT

Arianna.basche@uconn.edu