



ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

Financial Aid Office

Testimony for the Appropriations Committee

Michelle Cochran

Albertus Magnus College

March 4, 2021

On behalf of Albertus Magnus College, I would like to first thank the legislature's ongoing support to the private non-profit sector of higher education by continuing to fund the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program. I understand that the state is facing very significant fiscal challenges that require each agency and nearly every program to incur budgetary cuts.

The financial impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic have been great in Connecticut. The need for emergency relief funding and state-based student grant and scholarship programs are at an all-time high. We have seen our requests for loss of income appeals increase by 57% between the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years.

At Albertus, we pride ourselves on making a quality private education affordable. The State's continued support through the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program and The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund have helped make that possible for many Albertus students. Despite the increased relief funding for this academic year, and with Albertus giving out record amounts of institutional support, we are finding that the student need is surpassing the funding capacities. 135 student were able to receive either funding from the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program or the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund this academic year. However, we had 605 additional students that met fund eligibility requirements who we were unable to assist because we did not have enough funding allotments to offer.

Please consider increasing funding levels for the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program, or at least honor the previous institutional-level funding, so we can continue to help Connecticut students succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Cochran".

Michelle Cochran

Director of Financial Aid