



Undergraduate Student Government
Noah S. Frank
Director of External Affairs

3/4/2021

Distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Noah Frank, and I am a junior Political Science and Economics major at UConn. I am the current Director of External Affairs with our Undergraduate Student Government, and while I am a native of South Windsor, Connecticut, I am proud to have brought students forward through our #InvestInUConn campaign since 2019. Today, I hope to speak in support of preserving our University's state contribution, and help share my perspective on why keeping UConn's funding is critical to the future success of our state.

The State of Connecticut's contribution to our flagship public university comprises nearly a quarter of our University's operating budget. However, like many colleges and universities this year and last year, no part of our University was untouched when it came to making sacrifices given the current pandemic. While our students have adjusted to working digitally and socially distanced, the value of higher education is one that can hardly be overstated. In recent years, UConn has topped national rankings for our research opportunities, our wide range of degree options, and our exceptional sports teams. To ensure that UConn continues to bring in more dollars and attract talent, funding our University will be critical for this effort.

I have lived in Connecticut my entire life, and, like many students, I am proud to call this state my home. What is indisputable is that, in many ways, UConn *is* Connecticut, and our collective growth represents a real bright spot for our state's future. Our alumni hail from all 169 communities, and have served everywhere from the United States Senate to our alumni who sit on this very body. In order to continue the immense progress that we have collectively made, recovering from the current pandemic is an issue of top priority for our students. Real dollars can help support and embolden our commitment to the future of Connecticut, and I am convinced, as I have seen time and time again, that this is a challenge worth fighting for.

As you will no doubt hear from fellow students today, we are proud of our University, and hope that this year we can work together to address the complex issues we face. Supporting smart growth for our state goes hand in hand with taking this opportunity to support student success for future generations. I am excited to support this student-led and student-driven movement, and urge that the Appropriations Committee continues its dedication to putting the next generation of Connecticut's leaders first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Frank".

Noah Frank

Director of External Affairs



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