



Testimony for the Appropriations Committee  
Submitted by: Jamie Romeo  
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Mitchell College  
March 4, 2021

On behalf of Mitchell College, I am submitting testimony on **H.B. 6430: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR**, concerning funding for the **Roberta Willis Scholarship Program**.

I begin by thanking the legislature for continuing to fund the Roberta Willis Scholarship program, which offers much needed Financial Aid to Connecticut students attending both public and private institutions in the state. As you know, even as need continues to increase, the program has been flat funded for years. While we appreciate the difficult fiscal challenges that the state is facing, we ask the legislature to consider increasing funding to the Roberta Willis Scholarship fund in the biennium budget.

Mitchell College is committed to offering affordable, quality education to students. For many of these students, the opportunity to earn a degree would not be possible without financial aid, which 95% of our students received in the 2020-2021 academic year. 11% of our students received funding through the Roberta Willis Scholarship this year, helping to make the pursuit of their degree possible.

In recent years, the need for financial aid has increased steadily. Of course, this year, that need has increased dramatically, and despite additional funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, we were unable to offer aid to 295 eligible students, as allotments were all already used.

Again, we thank the legislature for continuing to fund the Roberta Willis Scholarship. We are also grateful for the additional funding that the Governor provided to the Scholarship Fund from the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund in the Fall. We ask that you please consider increasing funding to the Roberta Willis Scholarship Fund in the biennium budget, giving greater access to higher education to low-income residents in the state. This investment in Connecticut students is key to rebuilding and growing the state's post-pandemic economy, affording residents the opportunity to continue their education within the state, and to become the ready workforce to attract and retain employers and industry in this great state.

Sincerely,



Jamie Romeo  
Vice President of Enrollment Management