

WORKING FOR A BETTER UCONN

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



Testimony of Sarah Stern 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 Sarah Stern, and I am a graduate student, graduate teaching assistant and graduate research assistant at the University of Connecticut and a member of the Graduate Employee Union (GEU-UAW Local 6950). I teach physics to undergraduates at both main campus and the Avery Point campus. I am also doing research for my Ph.D. in physics. I work with my PI to study nuclear astrophysics and to better understand the reaction going on in stars, in special laboratories here on earth. This research is crucial to better understanding the universe and like previous high level physics research will have untold effects on the technology we are able to build and understand. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education.

I chose UConn over other universities for my graduate program because of the reputation of my program, and the many different types of physics research that were being performed, and the renowned and expert faculty.

In coming to Connecticut, and knowing that my research would take me years, I decided to buy a house. I have also decided to support local businesses where possible instead of chains that provide a like service.

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. Thank you.