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SB0840

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

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The bill passes as amended by House Amendment
"A".

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

If the Chamber could please come back to order.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 672?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, on page 34, Calendar 672,
favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on
Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Substitute Senate Bill
840, AN ACT CONCERNING NEXT GENERATION CONNECTICUT.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Speaker.

I move for the acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill
in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill
in concurrence with the Senate.

Will you remark, madam?

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has in his possession LCO 8504 designated Senate Amendment "A". If the Clerk would please call and I be allowed to summarize.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8504, which has been previously designated Senate Amendment "A"?

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment "A", LCO 8504 as introduced by Williams, Looney, et al.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentlewoman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection?

Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, madam.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, 8504 becomes the bill.

Last January Governor Malloy unveiled the Next Generation in Connecticut. This is an exciting and a very worthwhile program for our flagship, the University of Connecticut. It will create thousands of jobs, attract millions in dollars in new businesses, and a huge investment for our state.

We will make difficult choices in the next couple of days on the state's budget, focusing on long-term impact of investing in education, economic development and encouraging our state legacy of innovation. I know we're up to the task.

With the eye on the future we make sure that our institutions will prepare people for jobs in the future that will make the quality of life here in Connecticut something we should continue to strive for and be proud in and live in and enjoy.

This legislation is part of a larger strategy to bolster our workforce, our economy and Connecticut's innovative spirit. The leadership of Governor Malloy, President Herbst, Provost Mun Choi, they're ready. They're able, and they're willing to move this forward, and we tonight have an opportunity to afford them that opportunity.

Through the development at UCONN for Next Generation is focused on a program to expand critical science technology, engineering, and math, something we've become very familiar with in the word of STEM -- the acronym. It's an academic and research program at UCONN, which to the students and the faculty will be able to work for years and years to come.

I'm going to indulge just a minute. I hope you will stay with me. Once upon a time there was a young girl who wanted to play little league baseball. That wasn't going to happen and so she hid the baseballs. She wanted to be an altar girl. That -- that wasn't going to happen and her parents encouraged her to stay with the faith.

She wanted the same pay as the male counterpart that she was training at a very large retail corporation. She was told that that wasn't going to happen, so she quit. Never ever in my life have I ever wanted to go back. I love single day that is given to me.

Ladies and gentleman of this Chamber, I'm torn. I'm torn to go back to maybe when I was in high school -- you would have loved me in high school I was a little devil at the school. I'm torn to go back into the days I was in high school that these opportunities that these programs, that you the General Assembly are putting together today for our young people, for our not so young people, for the future of this state is just to me one of the proudest moments of my life.

And I want you to know that I understand fully what his means as financial expenditure in this state.

We are going to create jobs for the entrepreneur that's going to be coming to do the lawns at UCONN, that are going to do the driveways, that are going to build the buildings. They're going to do the electrician's work, that are coming back over the years to make sure that that work is state of the art. They're going to be young people who are not going to be the professors and the people that are going to do the innovative work in these research centers, but they are going to be brighter and smarter as they work with these people in projects we no idea what is coming before us.

This opportunity is something we should embrace. Yes, it costs money. And yes, we're going to pay for it. But this is one of the greatest event -- investments that we can do in this General Assembly this year.

And I would just hope that you would think about this in terms not only of what we're doing tonight, but the future that we're going to be providing for all the young people and others out there. It's just, for me, an inspirational participation in something that's going to create a quality of life for manufacturers, for all kinds of work that we -- again,

I can't stress -- don't even have an idea what it's going to be.

So for this, I ask you very, very much to consider to adopt this piece of legislation and let's move forward and let's say that we had a very pivotal moment in our lives when we could make a difference.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Madam?

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you very much.

The question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate Amendment "A".

Will you remark?

Representative Floren of the 149th.

REP. FLOREN (149TH):

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

That's a hard act to follow. I think you were probably the head of the cheerleading in your high school?

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

They wouldn't let me in.

REP. FLOREN (149TH):

Well, you should have been.

Well, I -- I rise to support this effort and this initiative. I think the people of Connecticut are looking to this legislature and this government to create jobs, to provide an excellent education and to be wise stewards of our tax dollars. This -- this Next Generation of Connecticut does all of that.

It's a known fact the new Federal Report just came out that for every job opening there are four more jobs that are STEM related. And we need to educate our young people to be able to fill those jobs.

I am excited about the vision of the president of the university. I'm -- I'm thrilled with her staff. They've made a compelling case for this. I love the public-private partnership component. It's especially rewarding for us in Stamford to have a residential component, finally. We've wanted that forever.

So let's get with it. We have the economic engine. We have a flagship university. We have mentoring. We have internships and we have jobs for our young people upon graduation. So let's keep them

in Connecticut and let's give them the quality education that they deserve.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

Representative Tim LeGeyt of the 17th.

REP. LEGEYT (17TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm -- I rise to share that I'm torn about this bill. Education costs money. And when education is geared toward improving the economic climate in our state through the development of industries like STEM research and the multitude of spinoffs that can result and the development of our notoriety as a hub for STEM research and development in Connecticut I'm -- I understand the benefits. I understand the improvement that -- and the potential that exists and I see a huge price tag.

I also, as a member of the Higher Education Committee, have to be concerned about how our bonding money is spread throughout all the institutions that our state supports. So I'm torn, because this bill in

my opinion cuts -- straddles the Line between what's good for the rest of the higher ed institutions and what's good for UCONN.

And in that light, I'm going to align my remarks with those of Representative Boukus about the benefits that can accrue from an investment like this. And so I'm looking to -- I'm -- I'm looking forward with hope and anticipation that this process and these projects will yield the benefits that are apparently within sight and make a significant difference in the economic climate in our state and the ability to attract and retain quality, quality graduates in the STEM professions.

So Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, but it's not an un-bounding support, it's a narrowly held support, but nevertheless, I am in support of this bill tonight. And I thank you for the courtesy.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

Representative Sawyer of the 55th.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When some of us started with the legislature in the nineties the university came to us and they had a great plan. They had a vision and they called it UCONN 2000. At the time the library was very easy to find in the middle of campus. Roads ran every which way. It wasn't pedestrian the way it is today. And there was this big building covered in plastic. For 16 years the building was covered in plastic.

So it was very easy if you could find where the library was you could figure out where any other building was. That -- the -- the Gampel Dome, you had -- you were pretty well located. Well, the university has sort of grown like (inaudible), my mother would have said, and, you know, they found that if they had a cohesive plan to move the university forward and had a direction and they did it as a one major plan instead of doing this building and maybe next year we'll ask for this building. It would give the university solid footing and the direction to move forward into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, we did that and we put a billion dollars into the university at that time and the university built a couple of buildings and when they leap frogged one program into the new building and

then they repaired this building and then they leapfrogged another one into it with a master plan.

So a little less than 10 years later they came back and said, you know, we've gotten this far and we're ready to move on and we have another plan to take us into the next ten years. And I said, it made sense. We don't give up now. We looked at the balance of where it was going to affect different parts of the university and -- oh, by the way, it affected the satellites.

And University of Connecticut is not just Storrs alone. It has some magnificent campuses now around the state because of that money that was the investment.

Mr. Speaker, when I traveled overseas for a very important conference, when people (inaudible) -- when I tell them I was from Connecticut the people in the education field knew about UCONN.

They knew about what Connecticut had done in investing in its university because it was unprecedented to put in less than 10 years promising \$2 billion into the infrastructure of an existing university was impressive.

So Mr. Speaker, what we have before us today is that third leg of the stool -- the next phase. The phase that still needs to have the upgrade, that needs to bring the high-tech piece into the life sciences -- certainly with the STEM investment, the investment in the Stamford Campus and other pieces of this proposal, Mr. Speaker, that are the culmination of now almost 20 years of planning and now we'll bring it into fruition.

When people talk about the money if we look at what many colleges ask for per building, per year they will come and ask for 40 to 80 million dollar ask depending on what building they need to repair, they need to rebuild and so there's a -- been a -- an understanding that we've had a growth time at the university.

It's been done with money that's a bit more than what would perhaps been asked for as any standard university has. But again, I go back to telling you that this is about a plan.

It's not been haphazard. As a matter of fact, a lot of the plan that the center of the university was modeled after Thomas Jefferson's plan for the

University of Virginia, to have a center -- a cross roads at the university.

So Mr. Speaker, I would like to lend my support because I believe that this is a very valuable, valuable piece in taking the university to the left level.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

Representative Haddad of the 54th.

REP. HADDAD (54TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the hour is late and I don't want to make this debate any longer than it has to be, but I did want to rise in support of -- of this bill. It was nearly 30 years ago that I was a science student earning a science -- trying to earn a science at the University of Connecticut.

The science buildings then are -- were old, somewhat in disrepair. And as UCONN 2000 and the other initiatives that -- that have worked their way across campus and made improvements across campus they

have left those science buildings and the science quad untouched. I should say that I think that both the chemistry building -- I was a chemistry major -- I was a physics major, so they -- they're both in the chemistry building, but the physics building and the engineering buildings, the biology buildings are largely left untouched.

And so there is a great need at the University of Connecticut for this investment. That lack of investment in STEM in UCONN has led to consequences. The state of Connecticut ranks 39th out of 59 states in non-industry research and development investment. The Milliken Institute ranks Connecticut number 47th in the percentage of bachelor degrees granted in science and engineering.

The lack of capability at the university to add engineering students and STEM students will be resolved by this legislation. Additionally, we -- we provide scholarships to ensure that students can afford to go to UCONN in the STEM fields.

Additionally, both faculty and investments will be made in non-STEM fields, which is important. The university is not just about the science fields. And while this predominantly focused on that folks in the

-- the English departments and history departments will also see a benefit from this and that's important too, I know to a lot of the students at the university.

Last thing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just thank the -- the architects of this bill for including additional resources for local infrastructure. As the host community to the University of Connecticut, Mansfield is -- is proud to -- to work hand and hand with the university. But additional resources that will help us meet some infrastructure needs will be very much appreciated in -- in the area of water and roads and public transportation.

And additionally, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that this initiative also includes investments at the regional campuses. It's not just Mansfield Centric, but the -- the money that's available for Stamford and Hartford and Avery Point and the other regional campuses will help UCONN meets its -- its -- its goals for providing an education to folks all -- all across the state of Connecticut.

I'm proud to stand in support of the legislation and I urge my colleagues to support the initiative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further on Senate Amendment
"A"?

Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with deep regret that I cannot support
this. I too am the product of a public university and
appreciate the fine traditions and the wonderful
academic skills that are passed on to students, but
unfortunately in light of this severe economic crisis
in the state, particularly in light of the budget that
just passed, this may be the right plan, but the wrong
time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark further on Senate
Amendment "A"?

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, good evening.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Evening, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

It is still evening I think.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

I think its morning now, madam, but.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good morning, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I have a -- I - I don't have a long list of questions. I have a couple of really short ones that aren't about the text of the bill. I -- I have two actually. If -- for the good Chairwoman of the Bonding Committee.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus, please prepare yourself.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

One is, I -- I have this document that is a summary of next generation Connecticut and it has the list of all of the companies and business associations and so on that have signed on as sponsors and I just wondered what sponsor -- what supporting means? They say are supporting the plan, so what does supporting mean?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you for that question. Unfortunately, I don't know what document you're speaking of.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

It's horrible, but I don't remember where I got it. It's -- I must have come from the UCONN people. It's a summary of Senate Bill 840, AN ACT CONCERNING NEXT GENERATION CONNECTICUT and then it -- there's a two pages -- three pages business and corporate labor and civic organizations supporting Next Generation Connecticut. I believe it's also on the website.

Through you.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't have that document, but I'm going to try to answer your question. I would be more than happy to take the document from you after the vote and see if I can get specific answers for you.

My thoughts on that process is, that this is such an exciting and innovative program that many companies have ideas that they wish to share. They have staff. They have faculty. They have programs that they have wanted to get on the board, but haven't been having the -- oh, the time to do it and they would share those kinds of ideas with the university.

Also, some of the corporations, I'm assuming that's on your list, are some of our larger companies, who have a vested interest in seeing that the university provides the very top quality employees that they soon wish to have working for them, so that their offer to the university would not only be in

financial assistance, but in parts and equipment and ideas of programs that could go with the university.

I could come off the top of my head with many other ideas, but I think you get it and I'll be happy to work with the list that you have later on.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I -- and I thank the -- the good gentle lady for her answer.

The only -- the only other question that I have for her is do we have any anticipation of -- there -- there are some -- there's a schedule that I have seen in the fiscal note for operating costs that UCONN and the state would be committing to. Do we have any anticipation of how this might affect tuition costs going forward, which we know have been escalating?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you.

Thank you for that question.

Operating costs are not what we're dealing with here in this program they're going to be through the university and so your question is well poised, but I think it's a little premature at this point to be able to make any kind -- kind of guesstimate or estimate as to what will happen with tuitions.

We all have experienced what has happened to tuitions on our state schools and -- and other facilities, even without this kind of a program, but knowing how important this is I can be assured, I'm -- that the university will make every effort to make sure as they provide for these young people to come here.

The idea is they get them here to make sure that they thrive here, to make sure that they bring back to the university all that they have to offer.

So while your question is an understandable one, it certainly is one we're not prepared to answer at this time.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentle lady for her answers. I -
- I don't have any more questions, but I have a few
remarks.

I don't think I've ever met a greater proponent
of higher education than myself. I am a huge advocate
to the point where I believe I've spent my self about
11 years in higher education institutions. Seven of
those were in private universities -- one of them here
in Connecticut. And four of them were in various
incarnations at UCONN.

I -- and I am still among those old-fashioned few
who believe that college is essential because it
teaches you to think and it teaches you to develop a
point of view and learn to do things and study things
that you'll never get a chance to do again.

I -- I -- I put such a high value on the
university system that we have in this country because
it is such a different experience from anything you
find anywhere else in the world. I have great respect
for it and all I want is to see it succeed, so there
is much about this program that is terribly, terribly
attractive to me.

In my incarnation that I referred to at UCONN it
was after I had ended a 26-year career in

communication and marketing and so on. And I had enrolled in a PhD program at UCONN in Storrs and I was teaching. I taught in Arjona and I taught in Monteith. If anyone knows those buildings they are falling apart.

I am aware -- and in fact it looked sometimes in the classroom as though someone had come in and lost their lunch on the walls. There is great dilapidation in a lot of the facilities. I am aware of the need to upgrade and of all the ways that money could and should be spent at UCONN.

I also know the value of the connection with the business community because the department in which I was teaching did not have that connection. And it was a department that -- that could feed many jobs with many professionals had it been run that way.

I -- I was the only person with a professional background who was teaching there at the time and we're so close to New York you can imagine the opportunities in advertising and so on. UCONN had not taken them. And I've shared that observation with President Herbst and we -- we have -- we have discussed that at length.

I want to see as much improvement and as much excellence at UCONN as we can possibly generate. I have some concerns. First, I have not yet, as a member of the Higher Education Committee, and having spent a lot of time with people from the various constituent units, administrators, members of the Boards of Regents, et cetera, I have not yet had a sense that the definitions of the roles of -- of each level of constituent unit were as clear as they could be.

I -- I -- I know that we see UCONN pretty clearly, but the CSUs there -- there were synergies there that I don't think have been exploited. There were considerations that haven't been taken into account. There are possibilities that need to be explored. I don't think it's happened yet.

I also don't follow the logic completely that the wonderful training in the STEM disciplines that we're talking about here with the wonderful new faculty and I know that anyone who goes to a land grant university -- my undergrad degree is from Cornell Arts and Sciences out in the middle of nowhere. You get faculty there, they're dedicated. Otherwise they're not going to live in a place like that.

So there's good faculty at UCONN and we'll be able to get even better faculty at UCONN with the wonderful training and the wonderful faculty. And the graduates that will be produced and I think it's something along the lines of 6,000 more immediately once this is in play. How do you move from the production of these graduates to positions they can fill? Those are two very different exercises.

And I'm not sure either that I completely follow the logic that every new development through the wonderful -- and I'm not using the word wonderful sarcastically, I mean, it very sincerely.

The -- the outstanding and innovative research that will come through UCONN through a plan like this. Will it all be developed here in this state? Will any of it be bought and taken elsewhere? I don't know. I am not convinced that everything will bear fruit here.

I love the idea of this program and I also like the provisions for regular reporting and oversight that come at the end of the bill. That's very important. That's something we haven't had enough of and I think the bill provides for that.

But I would feel more comfortable if there were two things that were happening at the same time

besides our having a budget that was a bit less strapped.

One of those things would be to see faster and stronger growth of UCONN's endowment, which is in my -- as -- as far as I could tell situated at about \$250 million right now. By comparison, UMASS was at about \$500 million a year ago. Yale we all know is 20 billion.

There's -- I think I would like to see more effort on UCONN's side to provide fund from those sources and to show that it can build very strong partnerships with people who are associated with it. And I think its capable of it and I know that that's a priority of President Herbst. So I just would like to see it happen. It would make me feel more comfortable.

And here's the other thing. And I guess it's harder -- even harder than that and that's hard enough. To me this should be part of a two-pronged effort.

Here we are developing the people, the talent, the research, the folks who are going to fill jobs and make the state grow and prosper, but on the other hand, I would like to see us at the same time be far

more active and dynamic in providing a favorable environment for businesses to come here, and stay here and grow and have those job openings ready for these people when they come out, so that they stay and that they don't leave Connecticut and that they remain here and help the economy prosper and do what we've really set out to do. Because I think that I couldn't agree more with the goals of this.

But I think to get to those goals we need a little more. And so far, for example, some of the large incentives that we've given to companies -- I would rather see that money go here. I think this is a great use of money. I think it's a fantastic use of money, but I think it's got to be coupled with a more favorable environment for business and real help for our state's economy.

So it's -- it is with very deep regret that I'm not going to support this, but I would like to and obviously if it goes into effect I will -- I will follow it and I will in good faith work with it, and I want to see it succeed, but I won't be able to vote for it tonight.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark further on Senate
Amendment "A"?

Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I -- we had this bill in committee and we had a chance to look at it. I -- I went to school at Eastern Connecticut State University in the seventies and so I know what condition that UCONN was in. I -- it was -- it was in pretty poor shape back then, and I imagine it got worse by -- by the early nineties when I -- when I took office here.

There was a proposal UCONN 2000, as Representative Sawyer mentioned earlier, and that really did wonders for the -- for the campus. It was about a billion dollars. It was -- it was a \$100 million every year for 10 years, but it was very, very well planned out. Our Bonding Subcommittee and Finance we had public hearings.

The public hearings were so large we had to hold them here in this Chamber because so many people wanted to chime in on this new innovative way of doing bonding and -- and renovating our flagship university.

They had phase one, phase two, phase three. We went over it very carefully and it was approved. And it did -- and it did a great job up there in UCONN. We put a -- we poured a billion dollars in, as I mentioned, over 10 years.

Now, when UCONN 2000 was faded out somewhere in 2004 to 2005, when it was due to phase out a new innovation came called UCONN 21st Century. That was to piggyback on UCONN 2000 when UCONN 2000 ran out and UCONN 21st Century, same deal, about \$100 billion a year and may -- and probably more. It was a little more and -- little more bonding to continue the work that UCONN 2000 did.

I supported that. We were in good times. It was the mid-90s -- I mean, it was in -- in the early 2004 -- 2005 and I supported that initiative and it did a great job for UCONN.

UCONN 21st Century is still going and it's going strong. There is -- we still have four more years of UCONN 21st Century and I think that's the point I want to make here today. There's a lot of money here for UCONN. We have \$858 million ready for -- going to UCONN in the next four years.

This year -- this fiscal year we have 200 million. We have 200 million in fiscal '15. Two hundred in '16. A 160 in fiscal '17 and 100 million in fiscal '18. We have a lot of money flowing into UCONN -- \$858 million over the next four years.

Now, if they want -- and if -- if they want to do something in a couple of years -- maybe in 2016, 2017 come up with another innovation to piggy back off of 21st Century that would be a -- that would be a debate we should have.

But my point here is there's a lot of money that we are prioritizing out of our bond package and -- and it is a good amount of bond package to UCONN. This proposal proposes another 510 million on top of the 858 million in the next four fiscal years. It just -- it -- it just -- it just seems like an over -- it just seems like way too much to me.

And so you know, for that reason I think we -- we -- we can prioritize. We can rearrange UCONN 21st Century. You can take that 858 million and say build new research facilities that are in this proposal. You may not want to do a housing in Stamford. You may just kind of do a better plan and -- and it's just UCONN's got a lot of money coming.

This isn't the UCONN of the seventies. This -- we -- we are -- we have prioritized it. We're proud of this university and -- and I don't think we really need do this at this time in our state and in our economy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

Représentative Tong.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good morning, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment and this bill. I want to start out by thanking Representative Boukus for her heartfelt introduction. I've been here for seven years. I'm not sure I've seen anybody bring out a bill with as much passion as I just saw from you, Representative Boukus. I want to thank you for that.

I also want to thank the governor for his tremendous leadership in putting this large -- very large package together. For those of us that represent Stamford and Lower Fairfield County, we're excited. We're excited at the economic opportunity we see down in our part of the state. We're excited about the opportunities in housing and in the improvements and the quality of life for our families.

But for a long time something has been missing. What's been missing for all of us is a sustained investment. A recognition -- I was just starting to get rolling there. What's missing is a sustained investment in a residential flagship, marquee university -- a research university. An academic center in digital media and business and a new seat hopefully some day for our business school.

And for a long time that was missing, but that stops tonight. Tonight we turn the page and step forward and begin to build that campus -- that residential campus that we know that we need. You know, we talked so much here in the General Assembly in this Chamber about children, about their future.

We talk so much about creating jobs. And as I listened to this debate, I'm reminded that back home

in Stamford there's 7-year old, a 4-year old and 1-year old asleep. And I wonder sometimes when we're in this Chamber how much we can do for their future. How much will we accomplish to pave the road for them ahead?

Tonight we have an opportunity to do something truly meaningful. We have an opportunity to put a shovel in the ground and to build their future. And I hope everyone will join Representative Boukus and the governor and take that opportunity. Seize it tonight and build that future for all of us and our children in this state.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

Representative Widlitz of the 98th.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good morning, ma'am.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill -- this amendment and this bill. A lot has been said about the amount of money we're spending and it is a -- an enormous amount of money, but the results are going to be the future of Connecticut, the future of our kids with opportunities to learn and to grow and to stay in Connecticut and it's an economic development issue for the state of Connecticut as well.

For far too long we've been standing still. And I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Representative Boukus, Representative Floren, and specifically my Co-Chair Senator Fonfara, who for the last few weeks has done a lot of research on what makes a research university rise to the top. What are the components?

And what he's found by examining a lot of the -- what you consider top ten university -- research universities are exactly what we've put into this bill; the networking, the collaboration, the involvement of scientists of industry -- industry that wants to grow in Connecticut.

In order to attract the top scientists in the world you need to have state of the art laboratories.

You need to have the equipment. You need to have everything in place to draw people.

We -- we will have that now and before the money is even spent there will be a tremendous amount of effort going into the plan. The plan will include all kinds of business people from around the state.

It will be a plan for future growth, for the development of this university and I think it's a very exciting opportunity, one that we should be taking advantage of.

It's time for us to step out in front, not to just sit still and lag behind. I think the future of our state depends upon the investment that we put into our kids, into their education, into their future and into the future of our state and country.

The STEM focus is where we need to be. We have been lagging behind in science, technology, engineering, mathematics. This is a step into the future that is a good investment and we'll see a great return on it. I urge everyone to support it.

And I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark further on Senate
Amendment "A"?

Representative McCrory of the 7th District.

REP. MCCRORY (7TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good morning, sir.

REP. MCCRORY (7TH):

I rise in support of this initiative, but I'm cautiously optimistic about it. And the only reason I say that is because this session I had an opportunity to do a lot of work with the UCONN staff, the people that work there, and I've done some research, and as we look to build this institution for the next ten years or so, I would hope that the university leadership look to invest in individuals from the state of Connecticut to go to school there and provide them opportunities.

See, our university do a outstanding job of recruiting. We bring some of the finest student athletes to the University of Connecticut and they entertain us very well. They -- it's -- it's just a great opportunity when you can go to UCONN basketball games and the football games and things of that

matter, but I would like to see the state university also invest in individuals who like to build those facilities. I would like to see the demographics of people who are going to build those schools.

See, some of the research I saw kind of disturbed me and I -- what I -- what I learned was that minority contractors and business men do not get a lot of opportunity to work with UCONN, but I've worked with a lot of good people this year and I know that they're going to put their best foot forward and make sure everyone is a part of this future growth of the state of Connecticut.

I would like to see -- I would love the STEM concept. Yes, we're behind a number of states, but I would really like to make sure that all our children, especially our children for inner cities get a opportunity to go to University of Connecticut and invest in his future.

So again, I support this. There's going to be a lot of checks and balances and reporting out and I want to make sure those contractors -- women contractors, minority contractors get an opportunity to spend some of the tax dollars that we're going to invest in this university.

I -- historically I'm -- I have not been happy with the amount of support and the opportunities that minority contractors and business people have gotten from the University of Connecticut. I have the data, but I believe if we want to move this university forward, everyone needs to be invested in it.

And opportunities need to be provided for everyone, from the people who put the shovels in the ground and the staff, and the professors that we're going to recruit there for our students, because we want to make sure our students are ready for a -- a world out there where it's diverse opinions and opportunities.

So again, I -- I encourage the support. I would like for all of us to support the University of Connecticut. It is our flagship state -- state university, but I also again, be mindful of that, that we have to monitor the fact that all people, women and minorities get opportunities to build this university and the opportunities to work there, but more importantly opportunities for our children from the state of Connecticut -- the children that live here get first dibs at opportunity to go to the University of Connecticut.

So with that said, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further on Senate Amendment
"A"?

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Good morning, sir. Thank you very much.

I must say in listening to this debate I was moved by a number of things. I was very moved by Representative Boukus' passion and commitment in -- in the vision that we all see for UCONN and certainly over the last 20 years it's been a quantum leap.

And somebody who's been in the fundraising business and has done some capital campaign raising, I have to say this is one of these dreams for a development director.

There's a lot to be excited about. It's an easy story to see and it's a very appealing story to try and raise money and get money from investors. However, I have been talking to a number of people in my district to get their thoughts, to get their feelings, because that's who we represent. And it was

very interesting to hear their side of -- of what we're doing up here.

And I heard some things such as, outside of the fact that it's a lot of money, but I think I'm pretty capable of being able to make the case for that if you really believe in it. But their feeling is it's a matter of fairness. UCONN has done extraordinarily well and it's had a major impact in this state and we're getting much better students. We're doing the STEM cell research. Clearly a lot of momentum.

But their question is, what about us? What about the other things that exist in this state; other state universities. We, ladies and gentlemen, are responsible for an entire state budget of \$44 billion. There's much more that we have to invest in, in addition to UCONN.

The good news for UCONN is not only do they have a lot of momentum and they have a great new president, but, as Representative Lavielle said, they have a great opportunity to build their endowment.

And not only has their recognition grown, but they'll also be able to attract a lot of investors. They have a lot of naming opportunities and they're also going to get a lot of support from businesses who

are going to find it very worthwhile to invest in this growing university.

But can that be said about a lot of other places? Whether it be your state universities, whether it be your manufacturing sites, whether it be people in vocational ed. Think about what our job is and how broad it is.

Yes, UCONN is a very high priority for a lot us, but are there other priorities that we are bypassing and overlooking, that other people feel just as passionate and feel -- or is just as important as we do with UCONN, but they're not being heard.

It's very interesting to hear all the compassion here tonight and I think that's great, but what do we say to all the other requests that are out there? And how is it going to impact people here? Take a look at the economy. We all have communities. People are desperately looking for different opportunities. Take a look at UCONN Hospital. A lot of people associate obviously UCONN Hospital with UCONN.

They're getting an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars. And yes, there's going to be a lot of opportunity with Jackson Labs who with all the surrounding communities, but its UCONN Hospital,

University of Connecticut and people have been saying this is great, but what about us. What are you doing for us? And I think that's a fair question -- a very fair question.

So while I'm very excited about UCONN and I really believe in terms of what the benefits will be, I can't ignore what my constituents are saying, or the questions that are being raised by others. I do believe it's an issue of fairness.

I do believe that making this investment we're shutting the door and opportunities for a lot of other places. And for that reason, I'm going to be opposing this. I think we need to remember we have a responsibility to a lot of other things that are now being denied.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

Representative Carter of the 2nd District?

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

One question through you to the proponent of the bill please.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus, please prepare yourself.

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

On Line (inaudible), there is an entry there for lump sum monies. I believe it's for deferred maintenance.

Through you, Madam -- or through you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the good Chairwoman explain what lump sum differed maintenance is?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you, Representative Carter. How are you this evening?

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Very well, ma'am. Thank you.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Good. Thank you.

Differed maintenance, code ADA renovation lump sum. I would wager that this is exactly what we've been talking about all night. That the University of Connecticut has been experiencing major problems throughout the university as far as the maintenance of buildings go, coming up to code compliance and I would wager that that is what this sum is for in order to get the project started.

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I -- and I do thank the -- the gentle lady for her answer and -- and frankly I agree.

You know, ladies and gentlemen in this Chamber over the last three years or so I've seen us blow through a lot of money. And there were a lot of times people stand up and they tell us how great something is, and how this is wonderful, and this is going to promote growth, and -- and frankly a lot of it is very hard to swallow sometimes and what's difficult is that then something comes to us like this and then I look

at it and I start to struggle and I think, my God, like, I'm so sick of wasting money in this place, but then something comes like this and it -- I have to struggle with it.

I have to struggle with it because we're talking about billions more dollars, but I tell you what. I mean, this is one of those times where I'm leaning in favor of our university. You know, I'm a fiscal conservative, but I understand the money we spend sometimes goes for things that I may not support and -- and it's very difficult when I fight those battles in this Chamber. But I feel strongly in this particular situation that this is going to be investment in our future.

You know, I went to a state school, Bowling Green, Ohio is where I -- where I went, and it was a -- a great opportunity for getting a quality education and actually save a little money doing it. And I want to be able to support those -- same kinds of things in this state for my own kids and for your kids, and for the kids of all our constituents out there.

So I do look at this as an investment. As difficult as it's going to be tonight to push my green button, because I know how much we spend, but this is

one of those times where I think it's -- I think it's the right thing to do. So ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to support this bill and I -- I thank the -- the gentle lady for bringing this out tonight.

Thank you.

REP. BOUKUS (22ND):

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care remark? Do you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of Senate Amendment "A", please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House? Members take your seats; the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast?

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, Substitute Senate Bill 840, as amended by Senate "A"

Total Number Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those voting Yea	120
Those voting Nay	21
Absent and not voting	9

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with
the Senate.

The Chamber will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The Chamber will come back to order.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move we immediately transmit to the Senate all business awaiting further action in the Senate.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Motion is to immediately transmit all action taken today to the Senate.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

So ordered.

Representative Arce.

Are there any announcements or introductions, Representative Arce? You're lit up, but perhaps not.

If not, the Chamber will stand at ease.

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Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Consent Calendar Number 1 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call a tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar of the day.

Total Number Voting	35	
Necessary for Adoption	18	
Those Voting Yea	35	
Those Voting Nay	0	
Those Absent and Not Voting		1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would please call as the next item Calendar Page 10, Calendar 495, Senate Bill 840 from the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

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Good evening to you, Madam President. It's good to see you this evening.

THE CHAIR:

It's good to be seen. Thank you, sir.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Madam President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR FONFARA:

I will, Madam President.

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 8504. May he please call and I be permitted to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 8504, Senate "A" offered by Senators Williams, Looney, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

I move adoption, Madam President.

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Motion is on adoption, sir.

Will you remark?

SENATOR FONFARA:

Yes, Madam President.

Begin -- before I begin my remarks, I would like to take a moment to thank Senator LeBeau, Senator Bye and Senator McLachlan for helping us get this document before us today. Their help was invaluable.

Madam President, this proposal before the Chamber is -- is about an investment in the University of Connecticut. It's about an investment in the campuses of Storrs, Stamford, Avery Point and Hartford. It's about continuing the effort began about 13 years ago to transform the state's flagship university from a safety school to -- to the -- a first choice destination, a leading public university.

It's about moving forward this public research university that is providing a much higher quality of graduates to supply the state's technology industries transforming it into a premier research institution.

But it -- what it really is about is just what the title implies, Next Generation Connecticut. Connecticut has a proud history as a world leader in technological innovation, from the cotton gin to the submarine to the helicopter and the typewriter. Hartford has long been known as the insurance capital of the world, the home of Pratt & Whitney, Colt, Pope Automobiles and Bicycles.

These industries employed thousands -- hundreds of thousands of people who started families, who brought -- who bought homes, who built the quality of life that made our state the envy of the nation. But that flame of technological leadership has dimmed. Today, the indices do not have Connecticut near the top. For far too long we have lagged behind.

This is a problem that has continued through multiple administrations with both political parties. The numbers are not pretty: 25th in entrepreneurial activity, 37th in non-industry R&D investment, 50th in job churn, 47th in

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the number of degrees conferred in science and engineering, 43rd in -- in the country in recent Bachelor degrees in science per 1,000 households, and fourth quartile in the new high tech business formation.

Is there any one single answer to reversing these circumstances? No there is not. We can bemoan the fact that we are an old manufacturing state at the end of the energy pipeline, how other states and other countries might employ cheaper labor.

But our Governor, Governor Malloy, has said no longer are we going to do that. His proposal -- this proposal before us, Next Generation Connecticut, seeks to make Connecticut's flagship university a top tier public research institution, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to attract top flight faculty and to attract first rate -- and to -- to build first-rate facilities which leads to federal research dollars, corporate research dollars, to build a workforce that will meet the needs of Connecticut's industry and help Connecticut's industry giants.

Just a few as an example: United Technologies, General Electric, Pitney Bowes, Jackson Laboratories, and in the financial services area of Aetna and Travelers, all major international corporations headquartered right here in our state.

So what does this bill do? The proposal will continue the effort to transform the Storrs campus from a substandard suitcase college to a destination for students sought by some of the leading public and private institutions.

At Storrs, we will continue -- we will continue to renovate aging science laboratory and classroom buildings built in the 1940s or before that need renovations otherwise they will fall apart and construct additional housing to accommodate 5,000 new students.

It will address long neglected maintenance issues included -- including steam lines and sewer systems and the need for more water resources on campus. It will relocate the Greater Hartford campus from West Hartford to downtown Hartford.

It will consolidate undergraduate programs there and in

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public administration social -- school of social work and the school of business into one downtown location, and the -- its proximity will increase the transfer access for community college students.

At Stamford, it will add undergraduate and graduate degrees in animation, visual effects and production as well as motion media design, sports entertainment, data visualization and big data analytics. There are 1,200 annual openings in the digital media -- media field right now and, currently, they graduate 90 a year. It will add undergraduate degrees and -- and graduate certificates in financial risk management, crisis management and sports management, among others.

And at Avery Point there will be a rebuilding and -- of the academic building at Avery Point for \$10 million and the reconstruction of the campus docks for 5 million, which are used to -- for research vessels in the -- marine sciences program.

But the heart of this investment, the heart of this proposal, is in the investment that many would argue is Connecticut's strengths: science, technology, engineering and mathematics which are essential to our state's future economy and many of its businesses and industries.

The opportunity to help General Electric develop the next generation light bulb, and Pratt & Whitney to develop the next generation jet engine, or how Aetna can provide for its members that are diabetic, measuring tools that will help prolong their lives -- those are diabetic who could help -- improve and prolong their lives.

Here, Madam President, is a -- is a chip the size of a -- of a grain of rice developed by two professors at the University of Connecticut on a Department of Army Grant looking to measure the metabolic rate of soldiers in the field and transmit that information to a central location point so that all soldiers' metabolic rates can be measured.

From there they have developed the opportunity to measure insulin from something -- something that is injected into your wrist and transmitting information to a pump for those that are diabetic that can immediately measure and then

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dispense insulin instantaneously when the body needs it.

That's the kind of work, one example, of what is happening at the university right now. But candidly, and many at the university, I think, would say so, that we need much more of this kind of work, much more opportunities in terms of attracting research dollars, the facilities and top rate faculty and students will attract.

This is the direction that technology is headed, and Connecticut's workforce and businesses must go there too if we want to remain competitive and become more competitive in this changing global marketplace. Connecticut's companies need highly skilled scientists and engineers to develop the technologies and products that will drive our economy in the years to come.

In order for those employees -- for those employees to be available, we need to train them and, as a state, we need to graduate more scientists and engineers to be competitive.

This initiative will allow the University to hire innovative faculty, to build top rate facilities, and to attract and enroll talented students in the areas of STEM. We have already seen a significant increase in the number of applicants since talk of this Next Gen proposal has been made public.

So what does the specific investment in STEM, what will it address? It will allow for the hiring of 260 new faculty, 200 of them will be in STEM; enroll an additional 6,500 talented undergraduate students. Right now, UCONN graduates 500 engineering students. It -- it gets 5,500 applicants in engineering annually, 500 are graduated, 5,500 apply for position -- for placements in the engineering department at UCONN. Those are the kind of numbers that need to be changed.

It will build STEM facilities to house material science, physics, biology, engineering, cognitive science, genomics and related disciplines. It will construct new STEM teaching laboratories, create a premier STEM honors program, upgrade aging infrastructure to accommodate new faculty and students.

What are the goals for the Next Generation Connecticut

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Program? And this, I must say, in working with the University of Connecticut in the course of this session to strengthen the proposal so that we, as a Legislature, aren't just voting on this document here today and hoping -- hoping that all that has been spoken about and proposed that it will come to reality.

The university has agreed and supported to enhance the reporting and the oversight and the advisory components of the bill, so that not only we, as a Legislature, but that the University of Connecticut and those involved in the STEM initiative will have a better understanding of what corporate Connecticut wants and what other universities around the country who have become leading top tier public universities are doing and how we can compete in that area to become top tier in the nation ourselves.

The University of Connecticut will develop a comprehensive plan to guide the Next Generation investments by 20 -- July of 2014. It will be guided by the following principles: An industry advisory board selected by the University represented by industries in the STEM related fields and shall include, but not be limited to, chief science and chief technology officers from such industries; an independent research and development advisory firm selected by the university; academic leaders at the university as well as federal and private funding agencies; and a benchmarking analysis of research innovation metrics in comparison to nationally ranked research and universities.

So we won't have to just believe what we're being told in hearings or whatever, but that the university will bring before us -- and those will be done independent of the University -- to tell us here's where UCONN is, here's where other leading universities are.

It will take time to get there. This is not something that will be happening in this biennium and much of it not for a few bienniums, but the metrics will be in place and the advisory committee of leading Connecticut industry -- industries will be at the table. They'll present to us as well.

And I think that is a comprehensive package of not only understanding what needs to be done but also

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shed -- shedding light on that so we, as a Legislature, who will be voting on this today, as well as the public, will have a clear understanding of what is -- what the goals are and how UCONN is doing over the next ten years to get there. I think that's a critical component to building confidence in this initiative.

Along the way, the university leaders will seek input from the Legislature. We'll hold public hearings at the Capitol to keep apprized of the university's progress.

I'd like to conclude my remarks by telling you the story about a professor at UCONN who I've -- I've become so impressed with, Professor Radenka Maric. She was recruited from the National Research Council of Canada as part of UConn's Fuel Cell Eminent Faculty Program, I believe a program that Senator LeBeau had a major part in initiating.

She received her PhD from the University of Kyoto in advanced energy materials. She's fluent in Japanese, French, German and Serbian. Her work at UCONN is funded by the National Science Foundation but she's built on that research by working with a -- a number of companies, Sonalysts, Proton OnSite and Advent, a Greek company she has recruited here to Connecticut.

She recently hosted a visit from the CEO -- actually I think it will be next week -- from CEO of NGK which is the largest spark plug provider to Toyota.

Professor Maric, who specializes in her work at the University of Connecticut in a number of technologies, she has pitched this company and this CEO, not in the area of automobile parts but in areas of healthcare, something that she has seen in her work that could have an application. And the potential is not only to have research dollars from this company brought to the University of Connecticut but also to possibly lure business here and employer -- employment here at the -- in this state.

NKG recently moved some of its operations to West Virginia because of research collaborations at West Virginia University, and the potential is to replicate that here at the University of Connecticut.

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Ladies and gentlemen, we want to get our state growing again. We want to recapture the spirit of innovation that once made Connecticut world-wide leader in technological development in manufacturing. And we want to build a -- a workforce needed to do those things and to create the Next Generation of Connecticut.

And I believe strongly that this major commitment and the leadership under President Herbst and Provost Mun Choi, two stars that we are very lucky to have, not only at the University of Connecticut but here in our state who are leading and transforming the university. And with these resources, the opportunity is tremendous to make our state not only -- and the university not only a flagship university that is a leader in research but also in building upon the successes of our industries here in this state so that not only will they stay here but they'll grow here and the opportunity to -- to draw even more business and industry to our state, and to build a workforce to strength the quality of life of our state and move us up to the top of those indices that today, unfortunately, we are not in.

Madam President, I urge my colleagues to support this initiative and I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President.

First of all, let me congratulate Senator Fonfara. I've watched him working with the Provost and working with the folks from UCONN over the past week to make a good bill a very, very good bill, to ensure that we have the kind of processes and check benchmarks and checks to ensure that we get where we want to go with this -- with this bill.

We're looking here at \$1.6 billion. This is one of the largest investments that any of us are ever going to vote

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on in our entire legislative careers. And what are we looking for? We are looking for Connecticut to move to a preeminent position in science, technology, engineering and math going forward at the University of Connecticut.

That we become not -- not in the top 100, but that we move into the top five and the top ten universities in this country in research and in the application of that research to help create new industry. I stand as the Chairman of the Commerce Committee to back this bill enthusiastically because that is what this is about.

Yes it's about our kids and giving them opportunities. Yes it's about providing opportunities for staff. But what it's really about is providing us the future for the State of Connecticut. We have been and continue to be one of the best states in this country for technology.

And as Senator Fonfara has said and our Caucus has said -- has said elsewhere, we don't have a major federal research institution in Connecticut. No, but we have UTC. We have General Dynamics. We have General Electric. We have some of the -- the best scientific minds in the country here and we are not exploiting that fully.

And we are looking, going forward, for the kind of collaboration between industry and the University of Connecticut that has not existed in the past and that we want and we need in the future. That is what this bill promises. That is what we need to deliver.

Their effects are not going to, as -- as the Senator just said, the effects, we're not going to see this in the next biennium. We're not going to see it in a couple of bienniums. But over the next three or four bienniums and over the next decade, we're going to see University of Connecticut transformed and we're going to see Connecticut transformed.

Now the word "transformational" is used too often. But this is a transformational piece for the University of Connecticut which is going to help transform our state. It is a future that we have to have. If we want to maintain the kind of high paying jobs, the technological jobs, the jobs in science and as we've said technology, engineering, math and all the sciences, and branching out into digital media and into the new explorations of the applications

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of mathematics, deep data, this is the bill that we need.

This is the -- is a -- a wonderful piece of legislation. I am very, very enthusiastic to stand and to back this today because it's about our future, all of our future, all of our children's future, and our children's children's future.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to share my enthusiasm that Mr. -- Senator LeBeau has for this -- this bill and the amendment, here, as well as Senator Fonfara's enthusiasm and all of his work that went into this. I know that the bill has been changed quite a bit from where it started many months ago to what it is today.

So education is such a huge component of the success of any economy, any state, any society, generally speaking, and -- and we're no different here in Connecticut. We've got a gem of a university, but what worries me is this, is the amount of resources that are going into UCONN as per this amendment as per this bill.

If we go back to the beginning of the program of reinvesting in UCONN, which I believe was 1990 or '91, if this bill and amendment goes through, that total will climb to \$4.2 billion which, in my estimation, is -- is a lot of money. And, yes, we absolutely have to be making the investments in education if we're going to have a complete self-sufficient economy where we're bringing in people from out of state, hopefully tempting them to stay in the state after they graduate from both undergrad and -- and also some of the graduate schools that UCONN has to offer, and getting themselves into good jobs, good employment with good employers who are here for the long haul. And education plays a huge role in -- in that whole process.

So that -- that I have no problem with whatsoever. It's the sheer amounts of money that -- that we're talking about here. Again, it's -- it's up to 4.2 billion for all three stages of this program if this goes through.

We all know that the private higher education institutions have the advantage today because they've been doing this for a long time of going to their alumni, in addition to maybe the federal government and maybe local governments, for some assistance but the -- the lion's share of resources come from the alumni and that's where they gain the resources to build themselves into the institutions that they are today.

They are not dependent on taxpayer money, whereas UCONN is at this point. They've been around -- I don't know how long they've been around but they -- they haven't been engaged in private fundraising of alumni or other private sources, to any huge degree, because the state has always been there for them. And UCONN will grow. And I am convinced that we'll remain a very successful institution. And it will be there eight years from now or ten years from now hoping for another one of these infusions that will grow the campus even bigger.

And what I worry about is that -- that -- that we're -- we will be potentially pricing ourselves out of the market. If you're talking as part of this it's an additional incremental \$1.55 billion in this stage of -- of UConn's investment, fully a third of that, about a half a billion dollars, is going into new construction, new facilities. And we all know that there's a formula, at least in the private institutional world, there's a formula for every dollar that goes into new infrastructure there has to be a commensurate increase in the operating expenses associated with that new infrastructure, whether it's salaries for the people who are actually going to be working in those facilities, whether it's for maintenance and depreciation, funded depreciation purposes, we know that there's an expense associated with that, which I frankly don't see in this here so that means -- in this amendment here.

Therefore, you know, what happens if -- if you build too many buildings, too much new construction? The pressure is on tuition -- the level of tuition. We all know that

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tuition has been a serious problem in this country, private and public institutions, for 25 years now. It is exceeding the rate of inflation, on average, by about two and a half to three times, not a percent, by two and a half to three times. And that's why we're talking about a major potential crisis, at the national level, with student loans.

How are we ever going to pay them back, and if you add up student loans at this point, it is much greater than automobile loans and consumer loans have been at any point in the past. So this is the next potential looming crisis, one that I'm particularly worried about myself.

The last thing we need to do is to continue those kinds of increases in tuition at UCONN. And I haven't seen any studies or any numbers crunched to demonstrate that we would not be exceeding the rate of inflation going forward. And without a very large endowment to offer students, the younger folks, tuition assistance or scholarships, to any huge degree, I worry that we're -- we're, in essence, pricing ourselves out of the market.

So if this was a lower price tag I'd be jumping up and down, as the Senator before me did, enthusiastic for the whole notion of having a world-class institution here in research and in other areas as well. There is a lot to be proud of. UCONN is a shining star for Connecticut in so many different ways. And so we all love the school and we all have a big place in our hearts for this school. It's just a question of dollars and cents.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I was surprised. I was jotting down some notes as Senator Fonfara brought out the bill and wrote down substandard suitcase college. I think we're a long way from the old farmer's college, and kudos to UCONN. This, ladies and gentlemen, is a folks -- is a plan to move UCONN forward.

I think we're on the cutting edge of creating a tidal wave to propel our flagship university to the future with a bigger promise and an understanding that science, technology, engineering and mathematics are our future. It's a marriage of business and an education and that certainly is a formula for success.

You know this morning, Madam President, I had the -- the pleasure and an honor of being the sponsor of my nephew at his holy sacrament of confirmation. And Archbishop Cronin was there and -- and spoke to the confirmants about how they are the next generation of young people, not only in the Church, but in society.

And I look at UCONN and our students that will be attending and that are attending and they are the next generation of our leaders and our inventors. And we should adopt the policies that give them the tools that they need to do their job, to look toward to future.

And I know that it's a large price tag and -- but what we've seen so far from the previous UCONN investments, we've done great things. We've produced great leaders. The technology and the amount of money that have come back to our society more speaks to that.

But what I'm afraid of right now is there's no room at the inn. We are at capacity. With passing Next Generation, we will allow an additional 6,500 students to attend our pride and joy, our UCONN.

You know, I will say, for all the excitement that happens in this building, one of the biggest days of excitement is Husky Day because we're so proud of our students for the jobs that they do, not only on the courts or out on the fields, but in academia as well.

We recently had the occasion, some of us, to go up during the Invention Convention with UCONN. It's awe-inspiring to see what comes out of the schools in the young people, the young kids. Elementary grade want to go to UCONN.

And years ago it used to be that UCONN was the fallback choice. Well, if I don't get into my college of choice I'll just go to UCONN. Madam President, that is no longer the case. I will tell you, as a father of some high school

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children, they want to go to UCONN. They're not old enough to apply yet but I know they want to go there, and it's very competitive.

And as UCONN attested a few years ago, the number of valedictorians and salutatorians that enter their freshman class, it's unbelievable. It's remarkable that kids want to come -- travel from wherever they come to the University of Connecticut.

I stand here very proud of the fact that I'm going to be supporting this bill today because I think that we are investing in our next generation, not only with the relocation of the West Hartford campus to the downtown Hartford, which I think will allow more students that have transportation issues to attend college. I think it will liven up our downtown.

Most people talk about it's dead downtown during the week after five p.m. Put a college campus down here and let's see what happens.

I wish I could look back -- I had some time -- maybe there's another Senator here who could give us a history lesson on all the colleges that were in downtown Boston. One only has to go downtown there and it's a -- a live, vibrant city. Maybe this will be the spurn of that.

I know the Governor has invested dollars downtown, as previous governors, in trying to enliven our -- our city again. It's something I'm certain that the -- the mayor would be very supportive of, more people coming downtown and -- and spending their dollars.

I think this is the right way to go. I'm very happy to do that. And I'd also like to publically praise President Herbst for her leadership on this. When there was additional money left over from the UCONN 2000 program, she reallocated \$235 million towards this program.

We're investing our money, and she is a good steward of our money, the taxpayers of the State of Connecticut, wisely, and I urge the Chamber's adoption.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you.

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I also -- I rise in support of this Senate Bill 840. It really is the next generation. I want to commend Senator Fonfara. And as a former trustee, and then living in a household with six UCONN degrees, living there. I believe that Senator Fonfara has achieved sainthood from the Crisco family.

But more importantly, I also want to commend the President and the Provost for their leadership. I don't know if it's coincidental or intentional, but some years ago, along with former State Senator Murphy who sat next to me, we took a major step in STEM cell investments and now we have another STEM program here.

And while the STEM -- the -- the original STEM cell program has so much -- so much to offer and such great opportunities, this STEM cell -- this STEM program likewise has great opportunity. And -- and in higher education you have to be competitive, and there's such a need. And I just want to commend everybody who was involved. And perhaps tonight the new Husky will smile a little bit.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Markley, stand (inaudible) to my left.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

One of the things I've -- that I've kind of enjoyed and looked forward to, for some reason, is, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, when I have the chance to

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question Secretary Barnes when he comes before us and, for whatever reason, I've always been concerned about and rather focused on the amount of bonding that we do in the state.

And the first time he -- and I do not pretend to be a -- a fiscal expert in any way. I -- I was on Appropriations when I served here before. I was a subcommittee chairman and I could handle the budget, as far as it goes, with the help of OFA and everybody else in the building. But I didn't feel my -- I wouldn't say I'm a numbers man.

And I'd ask Secretary Barnes about the amount of bonding we were doing relative to the bonding cap, which was a so-called soft cap of 1.4 or 1.5 billion. I always thought that was odd in itself, either it's at 1.4 or it's 1.5.

But when he'd come before us I'd say it looks to me like it's more than that figure. And he said, well, Senator, you don't really understand how we look at this and it's not calendar year, it's the fiscal year, and so forth. And I always kind of slunk away feeling that I had been corrected.

But when he came before us in January, I said, you know, it's -- it's -- now, it's 1.7 something for the next two years you have down for -- for bonding. And I said I -- I know I must be missing something but can you tell me how that's less than 1.4. And he said, well, we're still below the cap but the cap is now 1.8.

And I thought, well, that's the answer to -- that's both the -- that's one way to stay under a cap and it's one way to -- to always be right in -- in your answer.

I rise in opposition to this, futile opposition, I'm sure, because I simply don't believe we have the money. I don't believe we have the money and I don't trust the restraint of the people that are controlling the purse strings of our borrowing at this moment.

I have a lot of confidence in what -- in President Herbst, based on what I've seen of her and what I've heard about her stewardship of the college. And I trust that she's going to make good use of this money. And I look forward to it moving the institution forward, as inevitably a billion and a half dollars would move any institution

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forward.

I would say, however, that I'm less concerned about us being number one in -- as a research -- as a public research university than I am about us being, basically, number 50 in economic growth in this country. And I think the thing that is hurting us the most on that score is not the education, which is available here in the State of Connecticut, because I think there is few states that have, per capita, the kind of quality education available to us, not only in our public system, but especially in the private colleges that have been here for hundreds of years that we have had the good fortune to inherit. But I think that the cost has created a tax burden that has killed economic growth. And, to me, that's the problem we have to be addressing.

And to address that, the last thing we need to do is take on a billion and a half dollars of new debt.

And, Madam President, regretfully, and with the hopes that knowing that the investment is going to be made that it pays off, but I will oppose this bill.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, I have a couple of questions to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

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Thank you, Madam President.

Just to you, Senator Fonfara, as chairman of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, and -- and if you don't have these answers I can understand that but maybe even anecdotally, I do understand the amounts of investment that this bill is looking to create for the University of Connecticut. And I do understand the need -- or the desire to make UCONN one of the top public universities in the country and certainly is our flagship.

But, as a graduate of the state university system, my question to you is, how much in relation to UCONN do we spend on our state university system and our community college system?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you, the -- actually, anticipating a question like that, we did look into it and -- and, much to my surprise, we learned that -- that in the same -- same time period of the UCONN 2000 and UCONN 21st Century investments of about \$2 billion that the state university system, as well as the community college system, has received \$2.1 billion, so at a greater amount than the University of Connecticut has in that same time period.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. -- Madam President.

That was since the year 2000?

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Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Because it's my understanding that UCONN has received \$4.2 billion since 1996. So, in my estimation, that would be double of what the state university system has received in just another four short years. But I appreciate that answer, and I do understand that previous administrations have made great investment into the state university system.

Will branches such as Waterbury which is, in relation to my district, and/or Torrington or Avery Point receive any of this bonding money?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President, Avery Point, as I indicated in my initial remarks, will receive some \$10 million towards rebuilding academic buildings as well as the reconstruction of the -- the campus docks which serves to do research from vessels for marine sciences for an additional \$5 million..

Through you.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President.

But -- so I guess nothing for Waterbury or Torrington.
What is the cost of the bonding over the term of -- of
the -- of this package?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Through you, Madam President.

I am -- I do -- I'm not in possession of the -- of the debt
service that will be applied for this but I can tell you
that we are some \$4 billion under the statutory bonding
cap that is allowed.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I thank Senator Fonfara for his answers. I tend to
subscribe to the thinking of Senator Markley which is we
cannot afford to continue spending the way we are. And
I don't think that we have the wherewithal to reduce it
or stay within it as we progress.

I have something right here, Madam President, from the
State Treasurer's Office that says our monthly debt
service, just monthly debt service, is \$168 million.
That's just monthly debt service, \$168 million. Our

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outstanding debt or bonds are \$19 billion, and of that \$19 billion, 11 of which is for UCONN.

So general outstanding bonds, out of 19 billion, is 11 billion for the University of Connecticut. We've already stated that, since 1996, UCONN has received \$4.2 billion, which is double what the other state universities and community colleges have received.

So I understand we want to make UCONN our flagship but, (a) I don't think we can continue this spending spree. We keep putting money on the credit card. We are not showing fiscal restraint. And we are not doing it fairly or equitably with the state university system and/or the community college.

So I will be voting in opposition of this bill.

Thank you, madam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I thank Senator Fonfara for his presentation this -- this evening with respect to the Next Generation bill. And I am supportive of the concepts in there, STEM, digital media, somewhat less supportive of moving the West Hartford campus, but I understand and I'm very thankful of the inclusion of a master plan.

And what I would have to say is that when you think about making -- when you think about making an investment on which you borrow, this is the kind of capital investment you would think about. And so, from -- from that perspective, I can be supportive of this concept. But where I struggle, where I have difficulties, is along the lines of what Senator Markley said.

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When I first got here a little over two years ago, I sat on Appropriations and I understood the soft bonding cap to be, at that time, \$1.4 billion. Shortly thereafter, when the numbers started to creep up, when we exceeded 1.4, I, along with Senator Markley, questioned Secretary Barnes on that creep, to which I got a similar answer.

And now, I hear that the -- the cap -- the soft cap is \$1.8 billion. That's more than 20 percent in less than two years. That's outrageous. Now, I would say the problem isn't a project like this. No a project like this is where we should be spending such resources. It's all the other stuff we do. It's all the other, for lack of a better term, pork.

So while I can get behind this concept, while I can get behind Next Generation and all the great and wonderful things it's going to do for the State of Connecticut -- in fact, I spent time talking with Mrs. Herbst about Stamford University, and how northern California is a hot bed for technology, not necessarily because of the companies that are there but because of Stamford University and the relationship those companies have with the University. And because of that, those companies aren't going anywhere. And that's something that we can replicate here, albeit we are very far behind the times with respect to that. But I can appreciate that Next Generation seeks to do that and I can support that.

But, Madam President, I would challenge -- I would challenge the members of this Circle to stick to a much lower soft bonding cap, to have some fiscal restraint, to say yes this is the kind of project we ought to invest in because this is going to advance not only the -- the youth of Connecticut but the economy of Connecticut. But if we don't stick to lower bonding, if we don't say no to a lot of these other projects, well, then, we're going to undermine the very thing we set out to do here.

When Senator Fonfara opened, he mentioned three things. He mentioned that we were the insurance capital of the world. We're not anymore. We're not anymore. And it doesn't have anything to do with our education system, as Senator Markley said, it has to do with the environment we've created here.

Colt Manufacturing, we're starting to see these

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manufacturing companies leave the State of Connecticut. UTC was another great example, but there's been a -- a mind shift in UTC, as well. And it's got nothing to do with great projects like this and it has everything to do with our inability to restrain ourselves when it comes to projects other than this.

So, Madam President, while I will be supporting the next generation, I am doing so with caution and I am doing so with the admonishment to myself and others to exercise the restraint we ought to be exercising when it comes to all of the other projects that come before your committee for bonding.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I really connect with quite a few of the statements that Senator Welch just discussed. You know a -- a little history of UCONN. I'm a UCONN grad, as some of you know. UCONN only graduated about 950 people up until the end of World War II. And then with the GI Bill, it expanded and it exploded. So it's really -- the size of the University is fairly new, it hasn't been that big that long. And it's only recently, really, that UCONN has gone out and done private fundraising.

A good friend of mine who was a student at UCONN the same time that I was, he went on to Harvard Business School. He teaches at Duke now. But he came to UCONN as a -- as Vice President of External Affairs for a time and he worked with some of the presidents. And there were some at the time -- this is quite a few years ago -- who had the philosophy that a state university should get its funds from the state and fundraising wasn't something that he was inclined to do.

And, of course, in -- in this day and age, that's not

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possible. So the philosophy did change. They hired a development director from William and Mary who was very, very qualified, very good. He did a great job. And so now UConn's endowment, I think, is up to about \$300 million and -- but you've got to compare that a little bit with someplace like Yale University which is \$24 billion.

So we're new -- UCONN is new in the game of fundraising. And, obviously, Yale has an advantage. They've been at it longer. They have a wealthier alumni base, so naturally, when you graduate from one of the Ivy League schools you generally are going to be -- there's going to be wealthier people that you're going to be able to fundraise and talk to.

But that will change because, as the -- I listened to Dr. DiBiaggio years ago when he was president at the university and he kind of -- this is where I remembered some of these facts from -- and he talked about the fact that, as UCONN starts to develop, those people who graduated in the 50s then become the bosses. They hire other graduates from the University of Connecticut, and that's how you build a base.

And that's what I think is happening, and I know it's a huge change from when I went to UCONN. It was -- at the time when I went it was pretty much everybody's safety school. That's no longer the case.

To get on the campus at the University of Connecticut now, on the main campus as a freshman, you've got to have probably 1,230 or so on your boards with math and -- and verbal. You've got to be a really strong student academically so the -- it's really improved.

This was a top -- tough call for me, however, for some of the reasons that Senator Welch mentioned. It would be an easy call if we hadn't spent so much money in other areas, like the First Five, like ESPN, like CIGNA, like the busway.

At least here, when you're give -- when you're funding the University of Connecticut, you're funding a taxpayer-owned facility when it's all said and done. When you're doing some of the other things you are not.

So this bonding package will improve the university. When

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it's all said and done, all our taxpayers will own it. It will benefit students mostly from the State of Connecticut, although from out of state as well. But I do have the same caution that Senator Welch mentioned.

We need to hold the line in the future. We cannot continue at the pace of borrowing we're -- we're -- we've continued at. I think when I started here in 1991 or 2, our debt service was about 6 percent. It's up around 11 percent of our budget now. I don't know how you can go much further without really burdening our children and grandchildren.

We are, right now, among the highest, if not the highest, in per capita debt. That's a huge problem for the future. So I say this is a -- this is a great project. It's the kind of project we ought to be investing in but I hope that, in the future, we hold the line on anything that does not end up being a state-owned facility.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise in support of this legislation. It's -- I have been in the Legislature for -- for many years and when I was in the House we had the very first round of -- of UCONN 2000 come before us, and -- and I was in the position, at the time, as the Chair of the Bonding Subcommittee in the House and then the following year moved on to the -- the Chairman of Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

And at the time when we started these improvements with UCONN, it was very obvious that we needed to do this. That in order for us to see an improved higher education system in -- at our what's now we consider, and probably always did, our flagship university, that -- that we needed to make these improvements at UCONN, you know.

And at the time, it was -- to think is was a billion dollars

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was, you know, a hard -- hard amount of money to swallow and -- and put your arms around. But it has now been -- well, 13 years since we embarked on this. There was another round of bonding authorizations with another plan.

We have new leadership at the university. We have a new Governor, in terms of the timeline, and we have some folks who -- in leadership positions with new vision.

But the reality is that those monies were well spent. The fact that we're going to redirect some of those from UCONN 21st Century, I believe, if I have the -- the name correct, into this project makes -- makes this, to me, a well thought out project.

I think, when you look at the successes in other parts of the country and -- in terms of their research institutions and the amount of federal dollars that those institutions are able to capture, it's because they have created partnerships with the business community in whatever areas of research or economic development that they have determined are the best thing for their state, when you look at the -- North Carolina, when you look at California.

Last year I was at a conference with the Majority Leader, Senator Looney. We both went out to UCLA. And it was just this topic that we talked about for a couple of days. It was just this topic of the importance of partnering with your universities and your colleges in your states because they give you, sort of, that grounding and that understanding that we need -- we need those universities to help us because they have the faculty, they have the -- the students that those faculty can educate and, in turn, launch into -- into the future.

If you look at the amendment that's before us, on lines 61 through 69, it really lays out the whole mission of this particular request. To develop, the university has to develop research and innovative programs, but not just that, preeminence in research and innovation programs, hire and support outstanding faculty, train and educate the graduates to meet the future workforce needs of Connecticut, and initiate collaborative partnerships that lead to scientific and technological breakthroughs.

That one section really says it all in terms of -- of this

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particular amendment. Obviously, the dollars in there also say a lot as well, so -- but at least it directs the dollars to how we think it should be spent, and there will be a continuing partnership with this Legislature, as well, moving forward.

I believe this is -- it took me a long time to come to terms with this because of the amount of money, quite frankly, but I do think it's the right thing to do.

We have satellite campuses. One of them is in my area, Avery Point. You know, I -- people in my area had hoped a lot more money would go to Avery Point. But when this project was put before us, there wasn't even any recognition that Avery Point was a satellite -- was a campus of UCONN in -- in the original plan.

I'm glad to see that they're there. I obviously wish it was more than \$15 million. But because we'll continue to discuss this and as we look at how those dollars will be spent, I'm certainly hoping that as we move through this that, if necessary, we can reprioritize some of those dollars.

So when -- when we look at the -- the plans in place for our satellite campuses, for me especially with Avery Point, we've been nurturing and growing this marine technology and marine science program. We've made great headway in that area and we will continue to do so because it's a perfect place, Avery Point, for -- and if you haven't been to the campus I suggest you go and look at it. It's absolutely beautiful. But it's -- it's a great investment because not only is it the marine sciences but it's also Electric Boat that's there.

Their engineers within that company go to Avery Point to take advantage of advanced courses in engineering. So I -- I won't take up any more time. I'm sure there are other people who would like to speak on this amendment and this bill.

But I thank Senator Fonfara for understanding the importance of this bill and working hard on it. And I look forward to casting a vote in the affirmative on this particular bill. I think it lays out a great framework for the future of our higher education system at -- at UCONN, but I also don't want us to forget about our state

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university systems as well.

There are bonding dollars that have been authorized, and I hope over time we'll start to see those dollars allocated so our four campuses for the university system, as well as our community colleges, can continue to do the best that they can to educate our young people and prepare Connecticut for the future.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE:

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon.

Madam President, I rise in support of this measure and I want to elaborate on a couple of the reasons why. And I -- and I -- first of all, I do want to thank Senator Fonfara and -- and everyone involved in the crafting of this legislation because it is important to the future of our state.

And -- and some of the reasons why I -- I say that because if I -- when I look back to what UCONN once was, and really in -- in the span of less than one generation, really only in 20 years if not less, we've seen UCONN that was once, as was previously mentioned, simply a safety-net school. It was a backup.

Everyone always would strive to go to some other college or university of more prestige, whether it was in state or out of state, and UCONN was always in the background, that if I can't get into those colleges of choice, I can always go in there no qualms no questions.

But there was a price to be paid for that kind of a status, and I think this Chamber, as well as the lower Chamber, in the 1990s realized that you couldn't continue to -- to be the status quo in that measure, and we passed UCONN 2000. And that UCONN 2000 started to reap some benefits and you start to see the stature of our school grow. And then when we invested in UCONN 21st Century we continued that.

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And in less than 20 years UCONN has now become a powerhouse public school university. It ranks up among the best. It hasn't cracked the top -- the top ten just yet. I'm hoping it will. I think we're in the top 25, but there's more to be done. There's more for us to strive for excellence, and excellence is the key here. We shouldn't be striving for mediocrity. We should be striving for excellence. And when you -- when you get closer to excellence, you can achieve many great things. And UCONN has done that.

That's not to take away from all the other things that we need to do as a -- as a state. Doesn't mean that we shouldn't invest in the CSU or in our community colleges or our technical colleges. We should be doing those things as well, and I believe we will. You sometimes just can't do everything all at once.

But we do have a flagship university that we made a conscious decision to elevate and make number one and to be competitive on the national stage, and with some of the research that's being done, on the world stage.

And so I don't think now is the time for us to digress and go backwards because of a price tag, a price tag that we could argue UCONN 2000 was too expensive or a price tag for UCONN 21st Century that we could argue was too expensive.

But those dollars that we invested in had real results, real results that matter, that have elevated us to a level that we are proud of. And when we have UCONN Day or Husky Day or any of the awards that the school has been given, we honor them. We bring them in here in the Chamber and we celebrate their accomplishments. It's a -- it's a source of Connecticut pride and I don't think we should take that away.

And just for an example, I have UCONN campus in Stamford and we've had it for a number of years. And I remember when it was in the northern part of our town and it was a sleepy little campus, basically just a commuter school. You'd get your first couple of years of education and then you had to go to the main campus.

And it was great that it was there. It was an economic small development engine for us but we realized we needed more. And we realized that if we brought the campus down

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into the center of downtown Stamford that it could have a much greater impact, and we fought for many years to do that.

But when it did come downtown and we developed a world-class facility, it very quickly filled up with applicants, with students that wanted to be there because of our proximity to the tri-state region but also because of the hometown pride. And it wasn't long before it has exceeded capacity.

And so we realized that we're bursting at the seams. We need more and we want more because we can achieve more and the kids and the students that come there want to be there. And so what we did is we made it so that they could finish their education at the satellite school in Stamford. We exceeded and expanded upon the type of courses that could be given there. And with our -- with all our financial communities and businesses that are there, we expanded on that field.

Now, only a few years ago we expanded on the digital media legislation that has brought in a whole new industry into the state. And it's actually working quite well and very successfully. And those are exceptionally well paying jobs and careers and many people are trying to get into it. And we did that because we wanted to diversify, not just put all our eggs in one basket, just in finance and so forth. We need -- we realize that you need to have more options, more choices, so that if one industry segment has a downturn, there's something there to fill that gap, and that is -- and that has actually done that.

And so this Next Generation invests in digital media in Stamford and it will continue to grow and it will provide more economic engine dollars to the state. So when we invest in the -- in this school, I believe we're investing in our future.

And when -- when I think of the word "invest" what does that mean. Right? What -- what does invest mean? It doesn't mean that we leverage a dollar for today -- what I can get today; we're investing in what we can get for the future.

And if I look back at what we did for UCONN 2000 or UCONN 21st Century, that was looking forward on what we could

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achieve and I think we've achieved those goals. And we need to achieve and expand upon those goals going into the future because we cannot sit still. We can't do it.

Other states are doing this and more. Some of them that have been mentioned. But all the other states are investing in their flagship universities because they realize it's a world-wide competitiveness nature.

And so I think we're well positioned. And in terms of the -- I -- I have some similar concerns on trying to manage our debt obligations. But even a few years ago we realized that importance, and when I served in the lower Chamber as the House Bonding Chair with my colleague, as you remember, Senator Don DeFronzo, when we were both Bonding Chairs, we worked quite seriously to reduce our debt load and we cut over \$400 million from the bonding package, an 18 percent reduction that would provide then Governor Rell and now Governor Malloy the ability to work underneath our statutory cap, so that they would have this tool available to them to invest in these kind of projects that can have a greater impact for us.

It got rid of all the little small things that were sometimes given away as political favors so that we could invest in these kind of projects that make such a clear impact. And so by offering these choices, expanding on the satellite -- the satellite campuses, I think that's key.

You know Storrs is great and they -- but they are bursting at the seams as well. Why not invest in your infrastructure? Why not invest in your satellite campuses where you can pull in even more students, develop expertises at each one of those campuses, have a diversification of talent, but yet within our geographic boundary, all working towards its common goal of providing an excellent education and elevating our stature and making sure that UCONN continues to excel?

And so it's for those reasons that I think we should invest in this project because there is a lot at stake. It's, quite literally, the education of our state, the talent of our state, the economics of our state. It all is based on education because education, as been mentioned before, it's the great equalizer.

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And by having excellent education, it will spur our future students to achieve those goals that we set forth for them because they do achieve them. If you hold high standards, you'll be amazed. The students will aspire for them and actually achieve them, and in some cases, exceed them. And that's what we want.

So we -- we shouldn't settle for mediocrity. We should settle for excellence. And I believe this legislation gets us closest to that so I would urge support and passage.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Linares.

SENATOR LINARES:

Thank you, Madam President.

I believe now more than ever we need to pass policies in the State of Connecticut that can help our state be more pro-business, pro-economic growth and -- and I believe that entails a -- a nice balance between two components, one of -- one of which is to alleviate the burden on small businesses and entrepreneurship, to encourage being creative and starting businesses here, and to balance our budget, to do so in -- in an efficient way. And we'll be talking more about the budget next week.

But there's another component to that, and that's to educate the next generation to be prepared for the challenges of our time. And the biggest challenges right now are in math, science and engineering and that's what this bonding prepares to do. It prepare -- it's going to prepare our students in math, science and engineering.

I -- I toured dozens of manufacturing companies in my district. And what I found was that they all had one common demand and that was a demand for engineers. There's over 2,200 jobs available in the State of Connecticut. The problem is that business owners are finding it hard to find people that are properly trained for those positions.

As technology advances in the manufacturing industry and

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in industries across Connecticut, the need for higher-skilled jobs is in demand and -- and I think that this is the investment we need to prepare the next generation for that.

So I rise in support of this bill, and I do believe that because of investments like this, the Next Generation will be the greatest generation. I believe in Connecticut. I'm here to help make Connecticut the best place to run a business, to work for a business in the country and this is a positive step forward.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I stand in strong support of this bill. As chair of Higher Education I just wanted to make some brief comments. First of all, I want to be sure to start by thanking the Governor and President Herbst for putting forward a bold vision and making a commitment to it and bringing it here today.

I also want to make sure I thank Senator Fonfara, LeBeau and Williams who worked on enhancements to this bill to assure that the investments had oversight and input from both industry and from the Legislature.

I think when we talk about higher ed in Connecticut we need to really talk about a higher education system. Senator Kane made some points about what about the CSU. What happens is, as UCONN becomes stronger, our Connecticut state universities become stronger, our community colleges become stronger and, as we work on our K to 12 education system, that becomes stronger as well.

So I think we have to be very careful not to compare the

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two but see Connecticut as having a higher education system, and everyone here and in the House working together to make sure that that system works for the many, many different types of students and industries that we have in Connecticut.

The Governor is building on Connecticut's strengths with this proposal. He's living -- leading with a vision that's responsive to our industries. President Herbst has shown a particular ability to pay attention to the academic rigor of UCONN and raising those standards, while also being responsive to industry. And I think that's a really important point and I think that balance is vital, and this particular proposal really shows that balance.

This is a time of strength for UCONN, and when you talk about next steps you build on strengths. And our Governor is saying right now Connecticut has a strong leader. It educates engineers which is a strong industry and he is building on that strength. Next step, we're getting a new president at the Board of Regents and they'll be ready with a vision listening to the presidents of those universities as well as the Board of Regents.

These investments recognize Connecticut's history of innovation and they say we want to keep innovating because we recognize that as a strength. I really believe, as Senator Linares just said, this bill comes from listening to industry. I visited many manufacturers as well. And you hear it again and again and again, I could hire 100 engineers. I could run another shift but I don't have the right workforce. I need more engineers.

I think a proposal always has merit when its genesis is listening to Sikorsky, Electric Boat, Pratt, and others saying to us we need engineers. We don't have enough. And that's precisely what this proposal addresses. And frankly, it's precisely why it will be a success and why I'm so excited about the work Senator Fonfara did making sure that industry stays at the table and is a part.

So I want to thank the Governor, thank Senator Fonfara, President Herbst, Provost Mun Choi, who is here today and been here working with Legislators, for seeing Connecticut's strengths and UConn's strengths and having a proposal that's going to give Connecticut a stronger position in the global economy.

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Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I, too, rise to support the proposal. I had the opportunity, maybe a month or two months ago, President Herbst called and said I'd like to talk. And she came in, got a salad, lunchtime, we sat in my office and talked for about an hour about this whole proposal, about UCONN and so on. I can assure you that the President of Travelers or UTC or one of those other corporations would probably not do that. It was important enough to her that she spent that kind of time in the office so that I could understand the project because I was concerned.

First of all, I was assured that the ice cream store will stay in place and that's one thing that people have asked about. On a serious note, one of the questions that we've had is what about UCONN and Connecticut residents.

Well, I have an answer to that. Because of the efforts of Higher Education Committee over the years, because of the efforts of community college presidents, administrators at UCONN and the four-year universities, we have articulation agreements in place that make it much easier for students to transfer and move on to UCONN in the four-year college system.

But articulation agreements are no good if there's no spaces available. If we want to keep Connecticut students in Connecticut, we have to provide opportunities for them at the four-year universities when they come out of the community college system which is the largest system in the State of Connecticut.

And so this is a continuation of the system of higher education and this is why it is so critical. These are local people, our residents, that go to the community

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colleges, and it will be their opportunity to transfer into programs like engineering at UCONN.

And I'll tell you, Manchester Community College I know well and we do have an engineering program, a two-year engineering program, and students do want to transfer, but the likelihood of getting in is almost impossible.

And by more than doubling the number of admissions and so on, we make these articulation agreements real, and so Connecticut people get an opportunity to get to become engineers. And if they live here, they're apt to stay here. And so I think it's a tremendous investment in the future and very proud to support the program.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Madam President.

Although it doesn't appear that the two sides on this debate are actually equal in number, there are actually, remarkably, a tale of two philosophies in this Circle. There's a tale of two visions. One philosophy and vision believes that only by making a bold investment are we going to be able to make our children and grandchildren the leaders of our state, the leaders of our country, the leaders of the world.

That philosophy believes in the absolute vital focus on STEM. Economists differ on so many things, but one thing they agree on is that science, technology, engineering and mathematics is the future of our economy and the future of our contentment, and we are hurting in that.

As Senator Fonfara said, in terms of science and engineering -- engineering degrees, Connecticut is actually ranking 43rd in the United States. The fact is that, in the world, we're doing very poorly. From having been so long in science and math in the top ten in the world, we've now sunk to somewhere between number 20 and number 30 in science and math.

I don't believe that a -- one and a half billion dollars spent over ten years, as this bill would -- would do, is irresponsible. I think it's responsible. I think it's a responsible, bold investment.

And then we have in the Circle some, not -- not a great number, but some who believe, you know -- philosophy that says we can't afford it. We should be more fair to the state university.

By voting for this bill, I chose the former philosophy and vision. And I note -- and I thought it was terrific -- that the youngest member of us, Senator Linares, came out for what we're doing here in this bill tonight and I say, by my vote, the oldest Senator will be coming out for it as well.

Thanks.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Madam President.

During the discussion about this idea in the bonding subcommittee and in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I expressed a number of concerns about a new, very large investment at UCONN without UCONN taking the next step of creating a master plan of what they plan to do with the money and what's their vision for the future of education at the University of Connecticut.

I sensed, initially, there was some reluctance to that but I must say that the leadership at UCONN has come around. I must say that I've enjoyed having some interaction with Provost Choi who was very helpful even up to today and working with Senator Fonfara and Senator Bye and others in adding some language to this bill which does have accountability for what UCONN would like to do with this money, and more importantly, what UCONN anticipates doing in the future.

You see, in the private sector, you can't borrow money

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without a plan. And, in local government, we have annual capital improvement plans that are very specific. And those plans, on a local level, are usually out ten years or more.

And so we're very specific and detailed in what our wish list is, what we think we can afford this year and next and the following year. Everything is very specific. As some of you who have been closely involved in local government know, we have to be very specific.

And so I'm glad to see that this legislation now has just that, that responsibility, that requirement of the University of Connecticut leadership to -- to be accountable to the people of Connecticut, to be in great detail accountable to their students and to the taxpayers of Connecticut by way of developing a comprehensive plan to guide the Next Generation Connecticut investments.

I must say, also, that this amount of money goes against my nature. Borrowing money like this is a difficult thing for me to swallow. But when I listen to people like Senator Guglielmo, Senator Linares, and the leadership on the other side of the aisle, talk about what we can accomplish with this type of investment, it begins to make some sense to me.

Now, let me express, if I may, an important point somewhat unrelated to Next Gen but important to the higher education system in Connecticut. I've often believed that our state university system is an unpolished gem.

I attended Western Connecticut State University and I've seen that go from a -- a dust-bowl-parking-lot school, almost sort of like the description that Senator Fonfara used for the University of Connecticut, although I don't -- I think that might have been appropriate 50 years ago but not today, our state university system has come a long way as has the University of Connecticut.

But during the testimony, during the subcommittee on general bonding, I heard an alarming fact that I think we all should take pause and think about in planning over the next year or two. That the CSU and CTC needs are great but, more specifically, that the CSU system currently has a backlog of \$836 million in maintenance and other costs just to support the existing space they have.

So I -- I say that not to pour water on this great idea today but I -- I want this Circle to please pay attention to these needs as well. We have many cheerleaders for the -- for UCONN today but I just want us to remember that our state university system is chugging along doing a good job but also has needs that we must pay close attention to.

Also, one other point. It's my understanding that the state universities -- the Connecticut state university system has many resources that Next Gen is talking about, namely STEM resources. And I'm not an education expert, but I am somewhat practical in just always trying to find ways to make do with some of the resources we have. And so I'm going to ask today that the chairs of the Education Committees and the education professionals in the State of Connecticut look very closely at how can the University of Connecticut and the state university system better utilize existing resources.

Let us identify if some of those existing resources may allow us not to build new buildings. Is it possible for the University of Connecticut to share a brand new science building at the Western Connecticut State University campus in Danbury? I don't know. But I must tell you that that is a pretty incredible facility.

And so that's my point. Let us think out of the box. If instead of building sort of, you know, all these new campuses around the state, let's pay attention to what we have.

So, Madam President, I'm going to support this today. I'm probably never going to hear the end of it from some of my friends. But -- but I do want to thank Senator Fonfara, Senator Bye, and many others who helped get this accountability piece into the -- the deal today -- into this bill today, which I feel comfortable with. And I look forward to meeting again with the Provost and the President as they come back to the Connecticut General Assembly and report back on the status of their progress with all of this, because I'm sure they know that this Legislature will hold them accountable over the years before future monies are released.

Thank you, Madam President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. But you made new friends today.

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, this bill gave me a great deal of concern and pause right from the get-go because it, uncharacteristically, I was concerned about the financial impact of it.

And having been a staunch UCONN supporter way before I ever came to the Legislature on my local board of ed, when the early days that the Lieutenant Governor may even recall Fred Jelsey who was the state Rep, along with Les Young, my predecessor in the House as I took his seat later on, worked diligently on the first idea of a bonding package for UCONN 2000. And Les Young, the very financially conservative gentleman, would call me at night and say, Toni, what do you think of this and I -- I just told him he'd be crazy not to support it. It is so necessary.

And just like my seatmate, Senator Carlo Leone mentioned, we have great familiarity with UCONN and Stamford. It is where I first started my first classes for my MBA at UCONN on Scofield Road. It was a small, little area that was nestled in a very suburban neighborhood. And then later on, as I continued to struggle to get those courses in while working and having children and so forth was in that program long enough to actually take classes in the new building in downtown Stamford and saw how it really remarkably changed the landscape of the City of Stamford and it helped so much.

Even the very small businesses nestled around there, the businesses that would have as customers now the students that attended, and it also attracted the students from the neighboring businesses and made the financial services aspect of -- of UCONN Stamford campus a very large part of what they do even to this day, and saw how the growth of that also spoke to the need for residential facilities there that would be easily -- could easily attract a lot

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of students.

Oftentimes, many of our students that do not get into the main campus of -- of Storrs will go to the Stamford campus for a couple of years as well. So that became, you know, certainly a -- a campaign to improve that campus and grow it to become what it should be because it always had a great reputation for education. It always did. But there's no question anyone that would show up at the campus in Storrs was very disappointed and dismayed to see the condition of the -- of certainly the residential units for students and turned a lot away.

As of course, the next big thing was, Toni, what do you think about, you know, taking football to Division 1 and they want build, you know, this football stadium. And I said, well, you know, I came and actually came up here and testified, even though I wasn't in the Legislature, to speak about the fact that it was such a good idea, a good thing. Because even the faculty that had no interest in sports understood one thing and that was its reputation nationally, through its sports programs, actually improved the stature of our academic programs and they felt that they finally got recognition as its reputation grew.

So adding that to the many things that were going on there, it helped to improve not only the status and the -- the ability to attract more students and good faculty, propelled the university again, always having a great educational program.

So when this came up, I would have readily signed on but I fell back much because of what was just discussed here. The financial price tag was so huge, all at once. It -- it was something that the general public still scratches their head and has a hard time getting their arms around it to really support it.

In addition, you know, we all have to admit that UCONN Health Center had come to the Legislature year after year because they were always in deficit and we were needing to provide \$20 million each year to help shore it up, so there were many questions.

However, the most compelling argument for this university to continue to grow in the way that it is, particularly with the projects that are on the table, the good news is

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they're not all going to be done in one year and that there is a phase-in so the price tag isn't all about it happening today, is the fact that each one of those projects have enormous value to the university and to Connecticut.

I actually have experience with the universities in southern California that grew as a result of their biotech industry growing them. So there's two ways to grow the biotech industry and science and that business. And one is to have that business grow around you, as it did in southern California, and it propelled its University of California and San Diego to grow into a science university, or like in Massachusetts when MIT and Harvard helped to grow the biotech industry around them.

Connecticut has that opportunity with this initiative by actually helping to grow a business community around it. So for that reason, I think it has tremendous value. It should be supported. And I'm glad that now I have clarified my own position on this particular proposal and feel very comfortable and confident to vote in the affirmative.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

It's so nice to you tonight, Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Good to see you, Madam President, how are you?

Madam President, I'm going to keep my remarks short because I know we have a few more things we have to do and I don't want to be the wet blanket on many of the good things that have been said. But let me just tell you a few of my concerns, some of which were touched on by Senator Welch, some by Senator Guglielmo and some by Senator McLachlan.

You know, this is a lot of money and it's a lot of money that we're spending. And I think the worst thing that happened was when we gave the first money to UCONN and said,

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in UCONN 2000, here's the money, spend it as you wish and start to build. And -- and through an autonomous process, they went and they did their construction and the Legislature just was by the sidelines.

We weren't part of the process. We weren't part of the fulfillment of those obligations. We had no ownership. We had no goals we could look at and say we reach -- we have reached this -- we have reached this, look at this, look at that.

And then when you look at the way tuition has gone up and how UCONN has left us out of tuition increases and salary increases and budget increases basically saying give us our block grant and we'll spend it as we wish, and now they're back for more money telling us all the wonderful things that they've done -- and they've done some wonderful things -- but we haven't been a part of it.

It's like having, you know, a child that's dependent on you and you give him an allowance and you give them money, they spend it and they say we want more without even having us acknowledge what they've done. That's a concern I have.

I have expressed this to the UCONN folks that came to visit me and I think they understand what I'm saying. Look, UCONN we're very proud of, but I think it's wrong that they get the money and they say, we're spending it. We're going to plan it. We're going to do what feel is best and when we're done with the money, we'll give you a call for more. They need to draw us in. They need to make us feel more like we're part of the university that we, as a Legislature, are a part of.

In addition, what Senator Guglielmo said about alumni is extraordinarily important. Yale has got \$24 billion in their coffers. Now, Yale has been around since 1600s -- I'm sure Senator Looney probably knows the exact date -- but they've been around for a long time. And they've learned how to cultivate the alumni to get an endowment and they've used that endowment to do wonderful things. In fact, they're adding two more residential colleges to the campus, as we speak. They don't have state backing.

UCONN needs to do that. They cannot sit back and say we're

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just going to keep going to the Legislature. We're going to keep getting money. We're going to keep getting money. It's not fair. It's not right. They need to take their resources and their proud alumni -- and they have them -- and the alumni who have done wonderful things and say it's time to come back to the university. We have given you the foundation to make a good life to be successful, but we need your help, and they need to reach out. As equally as important, they need to reach out to us.

And I believe -- and I'm not on Higher Education. I'm not on that committee, but I believe the Higher Education Committee, they should come every session, the first day of session and say this is what we're doing at UCONN. This is what our new programs are. These are the new buildings that we're doing. This is our plan for the future and show respect to the Higher Education that sits there and listens to their bills and their gripes and helps them. They need to show that respect to that committee. It's a wonderful committee that works bipartisan to get things done and they need to show more respect to that committee.

I don't have a dog in this fight. This is just how I feel, so I don't know exactly how I'm going to vote on this. To be candid, there is a part of me that says do it because I'm proud of UCONN and I'm proud of what it does. There is another part of me that says I have to show my resentment towards -- and I don't mean it as harsh as it sounds -- but almost the arrogance to this Legislature and the arrogance to this Higher Education Committee that I have seen at UCONN since my years here. And I just think we need to show a little bit of tough love and say we need to know what is going on if you're going to come back to this well time and time again.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, speaking in support of the bill, one of things that I wanted to follow up on is Senator Fasano's comment. He was absolutely right that higher education institutions do have well-developed traditions of alumni fundraising. And there is a particular problem, I think, in the balance between private and public higher education in New England and in the northeast, because in New England and the northeast, there was a longer established tradition of private higher education before the public institutions were ever built.

For instance, Yale was open in 1701 and the University of Connecticut, 180 years later. They had a 180-year head start. Harvard had more than a 200-year head start over the University of Massachusetts, so there is a sense of an entrenched tradition. Obviously, some of the private institutions even have provisions for their protection written into state constitutions in the -- in this region of the country.

And if you look at other regions of the country, however, the preeminent public institutions of higher education, the land grant institutions are, and always have been, the most prestigious institutions in those states, for the most part. So there has been a sense of catching up in the northeast. And I think New Haven -- in the state of Connecticut, the University of Connecticut has done more than any other northeastern public university to make a commitment towards excellence to move into the first rank of national public universities.

Now, Senator Frantz earlier talked about the economy dynamics of why northern California has been so successful. He mentioned Stanford University. But it's not just Stanford University. It's the University of California at Berkeley in that same region, part of the one the flagships, along with UCLA, of the California public higher institution system

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that has made northern California the dynamic hub that it has been and has become in attracting researchers and -- and innovators and creative minds of that kind.

In -- in Boston, of course, Harvard and MIT are both private institutions, but there -- we have seen a mix of public and private institutions having that impact in different parts of the country. The University of North Carolina, public and Duke University is private, have had that -- that combined impact in their region of the country. And it's no accident that the states that tend to have the healthiest rates of development, the healthiest communities, the most dynamic economic growth, the most cutting-edge research and entrepreneurship are the ones that have the most preeminent institutions of higher education, both public and private. And that is what we are pushing for here in Connecticut with the University of Connecticut.

I was -- Senator Boucher mentioned, Representative Les Young and Representative Fred Jelsey. I had the great good fortune to be, sort of, the junior member of that group as the Senate chair of the bonding subcommittee in 1993 when we took a tour of UCONN with Representative Jelsey and Representative Young. And of course, they were so superb in their roles that they went out and visited every state facility.

And I remember at hearings of the bonding committee where someone from a state agency would come in and complain or -- or ask for funding for a new boiler, and Representative Jelsey and Representative Young would say why do you need a new boiler. We visited the last one -- the one you had there was put in three years ago. And they knew more about the public facilities and most state buildings than the agency representatives who came and testified before the bonding subcommittee.

But we toured UCONN in 1993 and saw just how terrible conditions had become there. The decrepit conditions of the buildings, the laboratories, in particular, was discouraging for -- for high-ranking students who

were disappointed in their public universities.

As Senator Guglielmo said, UCONN had a building boom from the end of World War II throughout the 1950s and 60s as enrollment increased spurred by the -- the -- first by the returning GIs and then by the baby boomers. And that building boom and expansion came to end around 1970.

And from 1970 until we began the UCONN 2000 Program, there was virtually no development at UCONN and no maintenance at UCONN and that's why the problems developed over those decades. So we made that commitment and it has been worthwhile at every level.

And one of the things about this has been that success breeds success. And one of the examples of that is -- not to make athletics a paradigm for everything else -- but when we had the debate, I remember, in the 1980s about building Gampel Pavilion, many people argued at the time that it was going to be a fiasco to build Gampel Pavilion to seat around 10,000 people because, at the time, the field house in Storrs, which only sat about 4,000, did not regularly fill up for men's basketball games. But, on the contrary, of course, what happened the day Gampel opened, people began to complain that it was too small and -- and hadn't been built with a large enough vision to be -- to be what it should become as -- as UCONN went on to preeminence in the Big East Conference.

And that's kind of an example of the sense of how university development, academic development, can be a spur, in so many ways, for other kinds of entrepreneurship, research.

That's exactly what we're trying to do with Jackson Labs, which will be in partnership both with UCONN and with Yale. This is an investment in our future, a continuing investment in our future.

For 17 years, we have now made this commitment since the first UCONN 2000 investment in the -- in the 1990s. And there has been concomitant support. As we know,

there has been a lot of bonding support for the Connecticut State University System and the community college system as well because that creates an equity argument.

When a great deal is being spent on UCONN, they certainly do have an equity argument to be attended to. And we have seen aggressive bonding programs for the CSU system and for the community college systems as well, and that must continue also.

So I think that what we are doing here today is really making a statement of hope and belief and confidence in what Connecticut's best future can be by supporting this bill and supporting it proudly.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I rise in support of the bill before us. Several Senators have mentioned, and now in my fifteenth year, we've gone through a lot with the University of Connecticut, as Senator Stillman mentioned.

There was UCONN 2000 which occurred during Governor Rowland's term. We then saw 21st Century UCONN under Governor Rell's term and now, Next Generation Connecticut under the term of Governor Malloy. I would say, as an aside to my friends at UCONN, that it appears you get a billion dollars every time there is a new governor in the state of Connecticut.

I thought that might go over well with you, Lieutenant Governor.

You know, I met -- I'm sure as many of my colleagues did -- met with President Herbst before the session started. And she came in and we might have talked for maybe a half hour to 45 minutes. And part of what she talked about was the need to really fix, repair and build new facilities for a STEM curriculum.

At the time, I asked her how much and I naively thought we were talking about a couple hundred million dollars, and -- and she through out the figure of \$750 million and I think that was the last time I said anything for the rest of the meeting. It was a lot of money and I was very skeptical.

At the time, she talked about asking me to come out to the university to visit and take a tour, which I agreed to do. It wasn't but four weeks later that the Governor came out and announced a \$1.5 billion plan, and I had even more doubts about how we got from \$750 million to 1.5 billion.

But I want to tell you that two things pushed me into the support of this. One is my faith and belief in President Herbst and the current UCONN administration. And I'll give you an example. And I've certainly had my battles. I've stood in this Senate Circle and given very lengthy and loud speeches against the hospital in many of its different forms.

And in my private meetings with the previous two presidents of UCONN, I had both gentleman say to me that not one dollar, not one dollar of UCONN 21st Century could be changed and used and put into the hospital plan. And yet, here we have a new president with a vision who is taking over \$200 million of previously allocated UCONN 21st Century money and putting it into a more important, more priority vision. That's what predecessors should have been looking at. So she has a vision and is flexible and I appreciate that.

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And the second thing was touring the facilities. And if my colleagues haven't taken a tour of the facilities, I would encourage them, whether they vote yes or no, to do so. There are laboratories at the University of Connecticut that we wouldn't want to send our kids to, they're so old. Things are rusting. You know, tape is used to keep things together.

And in talking to some of the people who have been at the labs who were recruited to UCONN, you know, two decades ago -- one gentleman who's been there, I think, for 19 years, talked about just how difficult it is to go out and recruit the best and brightest to come work in the lab with him because of the condition of the labs.

So after my tour, I understood the need for \$450 million in new academic and research facilities. And I understood the need for the deferred maintenance which is an increase of almost \$580 million in this package. And I think we could spend some time talking about well why wasn't this done earlier. Why were these buildings let to go into some disrepair? But you know what, that's for another day, because the fact of the matter is they have to be fixed, and we need to move forward for our economy in the state of Connecticut. That's really what this is about.

We know that when kids look at going to college -- and I have a junior in high school and I know Senator Kissel does as well -- when they look at going to college outside the state of Connecticut, we're less likely to see them come back home.

Many of us have toured different manufacturing facilities across the state and heard from so many that they're actually looking to hire and could fill more spaces, but they can't find the employees to do it. So we need to keep our kids here and we need to provide them with the STEM curriculum and the engineering for them to do that.

I will also tell you how incredibly impressed I was in looking at some of the progress that's been made

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at UCONN. My particular favorite -- and I've told it to those in our caucus -- is the three 3D printers that UCONN has, two, I believe, were printing in titanium, only the three, I think, anywhere in New England or the northeast, very few anywhere in America, and the partnerships that they had with technology companies in doing that.

I met a gentlemen who had come from MIT, I believe -- yeah, it was MIT -- who had been recruited from MIT to be at UCONN, people who are working with nano technology and incredible advancements. And that's -- that's where the world is going and that's where we need to compete and, unfortunately, that costs a lot of money.

I'm pleased that when they expand the number of students at UCONN, they've maintained the commitment of a 70/30 split on Connecticut residents. I think what we need to talk about, and it's not UCONN'S fault for sure, but we need to make sure that we have that STEM curriculum in our middle schools and in our high schools so that we're graduating kids who are ready, able and capable of going to UCONN. And that is something that, quite frankly, I think our public education system in Connecticut needs to do a better job with.

Senator Bye said something which I think we should also talk about briefly. She talked about this vision that President Herbst has in passing UCONN next generation and then getting a new president of the Board of Regents of Higher Ed and then getting a new vision with our Board of Regents. And that's actually one of things that worries me about this.

I don't think we should have a vision for UCONN and a vision for our Board of Regents for our CSU system and our community colleges. I think we, as a state, need to have one vision for our public higher education system. And I think one of things that we've let happen is that people have said, well, if UCONN get theirs then we need to get ours.

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And we need a vision, as a state, of public higher education because we have an obligation as a state to make sure that there is a good, quality, affordable, public college education for all of our residents. Not everyone is going to go to UCONN, not everyone is going to go a community college, not everyone will benefit from the CSU system, but they all have to have a vision that works together to meet the needs of all of the kids graduating from high school in the State of Connecticut. And I don't think we've done that. And I think that is a difficult job of leadership that is needed so that somebody can say here is our vision as a system, and we'll be able to say no to the different parts of that system from time to time because not everybody can be everything or get everything because we simply can't afford it as a state.

If you look at this project in totality, I think there are a couple of things that we could quarrel about, whether \$75 million, I believe, is worthwhile to move the West Hartford campus to Hartford. I think, in the long run, having a campus in downtown Hartford is better for Hartford and better for the University of Connecticut. That's why I fought so hard and said we should have the medical school and hospital in downtown Hartford, not out in the suburbs of Farmington.

I think we need to be careful when we say to one branch you can have housing, as we're doing in Stamford and not to others, and are other branches are going to ask for housing because Stamford has it too. But in my review, without question, Stamford has a uniqueness of it. And with the increase in digital media with things like -- with Blue Line Studios, I think it's called, with NBC Television, there is a growing industry in Connecticut and we can attract those people to the University of Connecticut in Stamford, and housing is an important component of that.

Some of my colleagues have talked -- and this will be my last point -- some of my colleagues have talked about the cost, and this is a lot of money. We

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borrowed last year, I believe, \$1.4 billion and we talk about that as a calendar year. I haven't seen the budget that we're going to see later this week, but I understand that the borrowing on the calendar year has increased to about 1.8. That concerns me greatly.

But whether it was Governor Rowland or Governor Rell or Governor Malloy, even under previous governors, we were still borrowing about \$1.2 billion a year, some 500 to 600 million goes to school construction. And we know where other chunks -- a lot go to UCONN and our higher ed system.

So the question isn't whether an additional 1.5 billion over the next ten years is too much, the question is do we have the guts to prioritize and to say that investing in UCONN, investing in STEM, investing in our high school children, keeping our kids in Connecticut and educating them for the high tech jobs that are here now and are coming in the future so they'll stay in Connecticut, is such a priority that we're willing to say no in other areas because we can't borrow \$1.8 billion a year, but we can borrow an additional 100-plus million a year for the University of Connecticut.

If this were in a bond package that went up to \$1.8 billion a year, I would probably vote no because that's too much on an annual basis, but this is a priority and a right priority for us to make as a state.

So I want to thank -- Madam President, I want to especially thank President Herbst and all of the people at the University of Connecticut who let me spend the greater part of a day with them asking a lot of questions, a lot of annoying questions, but they were -- they were -- they were able to answer all of them. And what I saw happening at UCONN is something that we should all be very proud of. And I'm looking forward to seeing what the next generation of UCONN looks like.

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Thank you.

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to support the bill, also to congratulate and thank President Susan Herbst of the University of Connecticut, Dean Mun Choi.

In the Legislature, I want to thank very much our Finance Chair, Senator Fonfara, our Higher Education Chair, Beth Bye, our Commerce Chair, Gary Lebeau, Senator McKinney, who sits to my left, and the Republicans who also support this as well. This has been a team effort in the Legislature and certainly in the University of Connecticut.

This also required extraordinary leadership by our governor, Dannel Malloy, and you, Madam President, thank you for your interest and support in having a first rate University of Connecticut.

We cannot afford to be left behind when it comes to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We know that 80 percent of the new cutting-edge industries that are creating the new jobs in America result from research at academic universities.

These STEM jobs, the jobs related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, these STEM jobs are growing three times faster than any other jobs in our economy. They're projected to grow by about 17 percent by 2018.

And here is something to consider when it comes to Connecticut. We have many high-tech industries. I mean, think bioscience, think aerospace, precision manufacturing. Nearly 20 percent of that STEM workforce in the state of Connecticut is 55 years and older. We need young people to be replacing those jobs, to be ready not only to take the jobs that exist,

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but to be available for the expansions that will reinvigorate the economy of the state of Connecticut.

Senator McKinney is right when he said that he hears from employers all the time who say, you know, we have jobs that go begging because we can't find the folks with the technical expertise required. I hear that in my district. I know many, if not all Senators, around this Circle hear that as well.

We cannot afford to let those jobs go begging and let those jobs leave Connecticut because of a lack of trained employees who have the benefit of this STEM education. So if we move forward with this today, what we will have is a ten-year program that ramps up an already good program and vaults us into the top of America when it comes to public institutions and its commitment to engineering, with new laboratories, new eminent faculty, and an expansion of our engineering department that will increase enrollment by 70 percent. That's what we need not to lag behind but to lead, to be on the cutting edge of this new job creation.

So, Madam President, I agree with those who have stood up to say many important and good things about this project and to further lend my support to this good effort.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, call a roll call vote on Senate "A."
The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate

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roll call on Senate Amendment Schedule "A" has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

I would ask the members to stay near the -- the Chamber since we'll have an immediate vote right after this, please.

Again, I'll repeat. Those members who didn't hear the announcement. We will be having another vote immediately after this. Please stay near the Chamber.

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "A" for Senate Bill 840,

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those Voting Yea	29
Those Voting Nay	5
Those Absent and Not Voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The amendment passes.

Will you -- will you remark on the bill? Will you remark on the bill?

If not, I'll ask for another roll call vote on the bill and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call this tally. It might sound familiar.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 840, as amended,

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those Voting Yea	29
Those Voting Nay	5
Those Absent and Not Voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I have -- have three additional items to -- to mark.

First is on Calendar page 24, Calendar 662, Substitute for House Bill Number 6527.

Madam President, the second item is on Calendar page 18, Calendar 613, Substitute for House Bill Number 6513.

And the third item, Madam President, is a matter marked passed temporarily earlier, Calendar page 31, Calendar 268, Senate Bill 975.

And if we might stand at ease for a moment, Madam

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machine will be closed and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 6527, as amended,

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those Voting Yea	34
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent and Not Voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of Calendar 662, Substitute for House Bill Number 6527.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And, Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of any other bill acted upon in the Senate today requiring additional action by the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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So thank you for bringing us up to date on that and thank you for the work that you do.

ANNE RUWET: Thank you.

PATRICK JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you. At this time, we have allotted a half hour, I'm going to say half hour for President Herbst from UConn to testify and at the end of the half hour, we'll revert back to the list of people who have signed up in the order in which they have signed.

Also, we really can't have people blocking the doors. There is an overflow Room 2D if you'd like to listen in there, but please keep those doors clear. In case of emergency, that's one of our requirements. President Herbst.

SUSAN HERBST: Good afternoon.

REP. WIDLITZ: Good afternoon. It's nice to have you here with us.

SUSAN HERBST: Thank you. It's great to be here and I am for the record, Susan Herbst, President of the University of Connecticut.

SB840

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, Members of the Committee, thanks for having us here today and for your support of the University of Connecticut. Your tremendous investments in UConn are the reason why we are a top choice for Connecticut students and are ranked 21st among public research universities in the nation.

My statement today is similar to the detailed remarks I delivered to the Bonding Subcommittee last week, so I'll be brief.

The primary reason that I came to UConn is how well supported it's been by this Body over many years. We are so very fortunate that our

Governor, that our Legislature, realize the importance of their flagship University in educating our future leaders and being the key lever in economic development.

Few Legislatures in the nation understand this right now and you are one of them. Nothing speaks as loudly about the success of a university than student demand. Students and parents know value and they seek the kind of excellence UConn offers at a very competitive price.

Demand to attend UConn is astounding and it keeps growing. In 2012 we had approximately 31,400 applications for our freshman class of 4,400 at all our campuses.

The University of Connecticut is very grateful to Governor Malloy for proposing the extraordinary Next Generation Connecticut Initiative outlined in Senate Bill 840.

I hope you can sense the enthusiasm of science, of our science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM students and faculty who have come to the LLB today.

While many would like to testify, they might not be able to stay very long. It's mid-terms this week. Their presence is a real testament to their gratitude for your consideration of SB 840 and your continued support of UConn.

I'd like to thank the Leadership Committee for allowing a student panel after this panel. I believe that's allowed. Once you've heard from the students, I'm sure you'll appreciate the quality of students we have and the potential to transform our economy, their potential as future entrepreneurs, scientists and engineers.

Next Generation Connecticut has a major 10 year capital component of this initiative that extends the UConn 2000 program until 2024.

There is also an operating budget component separate from SB 840 reflected in the University's FY 15 state appropriation.

You may be wondering how Next Generation Connecticut builds upon the progress of UConn 2000 and 21st century UConn. Those programs allow the University to address decades of neglected infrastructure, enabling us to focus on numerous classroom facilities, information technology, general utilities, residence halls and other infrastructure needs.

Many science facilities were constructed and other renovated, but also major non-STEM facilities were built and renovated in Storrs and other regional campuses.

The transformation of our campuses attest to our stewardship. However, our STEM facilities are now at capacity, thanks to our success. Next Generation Connecticut is a targeted program aimed specifically to expand our STEM teaching and research, classroom and lab.

Today throughout the day you're hearing from many people who are concerned about the difficult decisions you must make to balance the state's budget. You may be thinking with such a large deficit, is this the appropriate time for the type of initiative represented by Next Generation Connecticut?

I believe that the answer is an emphatic yes, just as a research triangle in North Carolina has allowed that region to thrive, despite economic downturn. This initiative will create a solid foundation upon which we can achieve a prosperous, economically, dynamic Connecticut.

The research triangle worked because it has two truly great public research universities at its core and they have boosted prosperity and success in that state in marvelous ways. We would like to do the same.

We are begging this Legislature to let us help Connecticut, to let UConn be the economic lever that brings us success.

Next Generation Connecticut will expand critical STEM activities at UConn and drive innovation, enhancing job creation and economic growth. With targeted strategic investments and facilities and faculty and students, UConn will be an increasingly vital STEM institution fueling our economy with new technology, skilled graduates, new companies, patents, licenses and high wage STEM jobs.

Next Generation Connecticut will create both construction jobs immediately and sustainable long-term employment.

Other states have made major investments in STEM research. In all of these states, there were impressive returns on investments. It works, and we have the data to prove it.

It's Connecticut's time to act. We want to catch up to great states and we want to leap ahead in key areas like genomics, material science, cognitive neuroscience, marine science, digital media.

Next Generation will make that happen. And this initiative will finally enable us to reach the top. Connecticut deserves to have a top public research university that leads scientific discovery.

Why would Connecticut want to be a follower in science, technology and discovery, never ahead, always low in the ranking? I believe it's my

duty to help us get to the top and to always be honest with you about what it will take.

I assure you that if we pursue Next Generation Connecticut, we will have our University of Michigan for the state an international university of the highest order. Connecticut deserves it and we can actually make it happen.

Dr. Mun Choi, our Provost, will speak now about the proposal in more detail. We'll then hear briefly from Steve Szymansky from Proton on Site, a Connecticut Hydrogen Energy Company and then Monica Smith, a UConn junior who's double majoring in mechanical engineering and German. After that, I'm happy to answer any questions about this project, but also answer questions you may have more generally about the University.

Again, my thanks for your incredible support of the University of Connecticut for so many years. I appreciate being here. Thank you.

MUN CHOI: Thank you. Well, thank you very much. My name is Mun Choi. I'm the Provost at the University of Connecticut.

Next Generation Connecticut in so many ways is about the future. But, I'd like to spend a little bit of time talking about the past and what the previous investment has meant for the University of Connecticut.

With UConn 2000 beginning in 1995 the University grew enrollment by 8,000 students. We were able to receive \$2.9 billion in new research grants, which created \$5.6 billion in related business and economic activity through new business start up, licensing, industry investment and in the process we became a top 20 public research university.

In the same manner, Next Generation Connecticut has the opportunity to transform the state by growing the technology and science workforce, enabling our faculty to pursue innovative research in the laboratory that has consequences, immediate impact in areas like clean energy to add it to manufacturing, and also developing partnerships with industry as well as entrepreneurs who commercialize and market these discoveries.

Right now it's a critical time for Connecticut. As the President and Governor Malloy indicated, Connecticut lags behind other states in some very key, critical measures.

For example, as a state, we don't produce enough engineers and scientists. As a state, we don't produce and create enough high tech businesses. In the most recent study by the Kaufman Foundation, Connecticut ranked 39th in the country when it comes to state and federal research investment, and Connecticut, unfortunately is 50th in the country when it comes to job turn, which is an indication of the innovation of the process of creating new jobs based on innovation.

Now, if we are to reverse these trends, we need to make investments in higher education and technology. These are the dynamisms that are needed in the new economy, and it's critical. So timing is everything when it comes to investing in technology in higher education.

Now, innovation is a critical component of Next Generation Connecticut, and that's because we can usher in new research opportunities that our faculty members are at the forefront of leading.

Our faculty members and students, many of them who are here today, are working on areas like

additive manufacturing. President Obama indicated that additive manufacturing will be a game changer, to be able to use advance materials and produce printed parts using three dimensional printing for sectors that are as diverse as biomedical to aerospace, will make an important impact in this state.

Research in the area of clean energy to develop more advanced, efficient, longer lasting batteries and super capacitors, as well as incorporating key technology that will usher in microgrid, will be very critical for this state.

Other areas like functional genomics that can lead to personalized treatment as well as personalized medicine can create a hub in this state that will be the source of new innovation for years to come.

The President also mentioned the importance of marine scientists. We have an opportunity to enable our faculty who work in marine sciences and engineering to develop sensor networks, to develop robots so that we can better manage land and water resources.

But currently, our faculty members and students are working in buildings that were built before the 1960s. They are not suitable for the type of research that we need for 21st century science. In order for them to be competitive for large federal grants and grants with industry, we need to make this investment not only in the people, but in the infrastructure that's going to be critically needed.

It's also very important that this investment would create new jobs. STEM jobs, it is estimated, will grow at three times the rate compared to non-STEM jobs. There are also very important multiplier of facts related to STEM

jobs. For example, manufacturing jobs who create in addition to that job, three additional jobs beyond the traded factors.

So in Connecticut we have companies like United Technologies, Electric Boat and smaller companies, smaller very successful businesses like Proton that are demanding that we graduate more engineers and more scientists.

But currently, we do not have the facilities or the number of faculty members to meet that demand. As we move into the future, that investment in space, infrastructure, equipment, as well as intellectual capacity that comes from faculty members is critically important.

So as part of this program, the components comprised of an increase in the enrollment by 70 percent for students in engineering, a 42 percent increase overall in STEM, increase in the number of faculty members by 260 above and beyond the current faculty members they will be hiring as part of the 290 plan.

So, in a span of five to ten years, the intellectual capacity that will be brought about by the U faculty and the U students will create an equal system that will be unmatched anywhere else.

So in our pursuit of becoming a state that is going to be creating jobs based on innovation and economic development, this investment will be very, very critical.

In addition to the investment that we're making in Storrs and in faculty and students, we'll also be relocating the greater Hartford campus into downtown Hartford.

The greater Hartford campus serves our most diverse student body and it serves 2,000 students and faculty members who are very

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excited about meeting our public mission, that mission to incorporate social studies, social work as well as public policy, business, education and engineering.

By being in downtown in the Capitol region, our faculty and students will have the opportunity to better serve state agencies, as well as businesses that want to hire our students and work with our faculty members.

So Next Generation Connecticut is an ambitious plan. It's a plan that's going to take the University of Connecticut on a path to make it a top flagship university. It's a ten-year plan that is carefully thought out in terms of the investments that are needed but also the outcome, measurable outcomes that come through not only the enrollment but increase in research and the attendant economic benefit that comes from innovations and commercialization, new businesses and industry partnership.

So we're very excited about this program and have a great opportunity to really transform the state and the University. Thank you.

STEVE SZYMANSKI: Good afternoon, Chairman Fonfara, Chairman Widlitz and Members of the Finance Committee, my name is Steve Szymanski and I'm a Manager of Business Development at Proton on Site in Wallingford, Connecticut.

On behalf of myself and our Chief Executive Officer, Robert Friedland, I thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

Like most lifelong residents of Connecticut, I have many personal connections to UConn and the technical programs offered by our flagship university.

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My wife received both a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and an MBA from UConn. My father earned his degree in physics back when people proudly referred to the jungle as the jungle. My two sons took numerous early college experience classes accredited by UConn when they were in high school.

My own first professional experience as a chemical engineer was working as a research assistant at UConn's Institute for Material Science, and I'll tell you parenthetically, I wasn't a star student as an undergraduate. In that undergraduate experience that I got at IMS, I think really helped me to get my first job.

I also have a civic connection to STEM education programs. I have served multiple terms on the Stafford Board of Education and have also devoted many years to a school building committee that executed two major school construction projects in our town, so I am very familiar with the data that supports investment in STEM education initiatives and the importance of developing the facility infrastructure that supports these programs.

With that backdrop, I want to tell you about our company, and why I believe that investment in STEM program and infrastructure capability at UConn will help us grow and maintain a competitive position in our field.

Proton is a technology company started 16 years ago in Connecticut and continuing to grow and add jobs. Positions in our company related to STEM fields include engineers, scientists, technical sales and finance. As a small company, we compete against the large businesses in the state for candidates.

We continue to have difficulty finding people for these positions. Today, we have two positions open for engineers that we have been unable to fill for four months, and additional positions planned for later this year.

Small technology and entrepreneurial startup companies highly desire students coming out of college in STEM fields. The exuberance, technology know-how, computer skills and I want to conquer the world attitude are characteristics that are crucial to these companies, often over years of work experience.

The reasons for this are simply that these classes of companies are often engaged in non-traditional or new cutting-edge areas where directly related more seasoned individuals often do not exist. The trouble that many of us face is the pipeline for this talent in this state is thin, and the competition for it is intense.

As mentioned previously, larger companies with bigger name recognition and recruiting resources often have a competitive advantage in attracting the best talent.

As a state, are we willing to accept that our best college graduates will migrate to the larger markets of New York and Boston, only to hope that they will come back to Connecticut after starting a family?

It is disingenuous to talk about creating an environment for startup companies through the innovation eco-system and then not making an investment to ensure that the pipeline of talent is there for these companies.

That is exactly what we are doing if we do not start proactively looking for ways to reverse

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this trend and keep our college graduates in Connecticut.

Small companies also heavily rely on leveraging universities to help with the research that we cannot afford to staff or we do not have the equipment or facilities to execute. At Proton we have built a very good relationship with UConn, but that was not always the case.

Prior to Mun Choi coming to UConn, we were not able to get research programs in place and actively built relationships outside of Connecticut at Penn State, the University of South Carolina and others.

Today, UConn is our first choice as a university partner and we continue to actively look for ways to work together and propose collaborative projects for federal funding.

Next Generation Connecticut is the type of program that can really act as a catalyst between the small business investment programs already enacted and operating in the state, and the innovation eco-system we are trying to build to drive more startup companies.

This program will build the talent pipeline, provide a research bridge to these startups and act as a training ground for new employee hiring.

We strongly urge the Committee to support this program. We understand the financial situation in the state, but investments like this help create an engine for economic growth and a lasting change in the trajectory of STEM career growth in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and attention in these matters and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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MONICA SMITH: I'm honored to be here today to represent the school that I love and I'm proud to be a part of.

REP. WIDLITZ: Excuse me, could you please identify yourself for the record. Thank you.

MONICA SMITH: My name is Monica Smith and I'm an undergraduate mechanical engineering student in the Euro-tech program at UConn. Euro-tech is a five-year double degree program in which students study an engineering discipline German language and spend a year abroad studying in Germany.

On behalf of the students of UConn I want to thank you for your support. UConn is a top university and the UConn 2000 and 21st century UConn initiative have allowed us to continue to expand and improve. But more needs to be done. We are at capacity.

When I applied for the engineering program at UConn as a high school senior I was rejected, despite the fact that I was in the top 25 percent of my graduating class and had impressive SAT scores.

I spent a semester as a non-degree student at UConn before reapplying and being accepted to UConn as an undecided major. There were then two more semesters before I was accepted into the mechanical engineering program.

Many students wouldn't have persevered like I did. UConn engineering almost missed out on me and has surely missed out on many other driven passionate students.

At UConn I have taken advantages of many of the opportunities being an engineering student has to offer. Last summer, through my involvement as a UConn UTC engineering ambassador, I interned at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford.

Last semester I continued with Pratt & Whitney doing research on 3-D printing at the newly formed additive manufacturing lab on the UConn (inaudible) campus.

Three D printing is an additive technology in which an object is built layer by layer. As Provost Choi mentioned, in his state of the union address President Barack Obama said when talking about 3-D printing that it has the potential to revolutionize the way we make almost everything.

These words show this is a very exciting time to be an engineer and it's just one example of the cutting-edge research being done at UConn.

Additionally, I'm one of the two Co-Presidents of UConn Engineering Ambassadors, which is an outreach organization committed to inspiring younger students pre-K through 12 to pursue engineering or other STEM fields.

Since the formation of the club two and a half years ago, we've reached out to over 7,000 students in schools across the state, 3,000 of those last semester alone.

So I'm telling you, the students are out there, and it's unacceptable that we're turning down these qualified students when UConn can't graduate enough engineers to fill the need in Connecticut.

UConn has an impressive retention and graduation rate, which speaks to UConn's ability to engage students. The methods are already in place to educate the future leaders in our state. We just need the funding to grow.

There is no better investment than the investment in the future of our state. We are that future. Myself and the students here with

me here today and the students back at UConn, we are excited and inspired, and we will change the world.

We urge you to continue your support for the future of our state. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Well thank you very much for bringing all of this excitement and good news to the Connecticut Legislature. We're depending upon you as well to be one of our economic engines and I would just like to share with you a story.

Last week we had Girl Scouts in the building from all over the state and I met a young woman from my town who loves to do robotics and she's a member of a Robotics Club. She's applied to UConn and was accepted. Thank you very much.

And when she first walked into a group of students who had formed a club, she was the only girl when she was a freshman in high school. So she looked around and she said, this is not acceptable and now the club has many, many young women and there is an interest all along the shoreline in robotics, and I think that's a sign of things changing and how we need to change as well in order to be competitive in the markets that will be the markets of the future.

So we thank you for being here today and Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA: Thank you, Madam Chair, and again, I'll try to ask my questions quickly, and if you could have your answers to be similarly oriented that would be helpful given the numbers who still are here to testify.

President Herbst, I just want to say first that Connecticut is very lucky to have you here at the helm of our flagship university. The

leadership, the candor that you, the aggressiveness, that's my word, that you bring to the job is refreshing and very helpful for us, along with Provost Choi.

We know that the University is in good hands and we hope you continue to bring the kind of leadership and perspective that you have.

As you testified before the Bonding Subcommittee the other day I recall you saying, I don't know what was going on before I got here but I know what we're doing now, and that's very much appreciated for those of us who are responsible for the public purse in knowing how important it is that there is confidence behind major investments like we've had at the University of Connecticut in the last several years, including this one.

That is a new proposal, but one that's important and I think it is incumbent upon the Governor's office and the administration at UConn to convince why such a large proposal is necessary and you're doing that.

If I could ask you a couple of questions. One is, as I've told you, I've done some research in looking at other states and their investments in STEM, and particular in Massachusetts and Maryland that had task forces prior to announcing investments. We have not done that.

A major part of their recommendation was in creating a pipeline in their K through 12 system so that students are ready to move into the university in STEM. Would you support, would you recommend that we do something like that, not necessarily prior to this, support for this but consistent with it? I'll give you a chance to answer that quickly.

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SUSAN HERBST: Yes, absolutely. I'll let the Provost answer that, but I have to say that many of the majors in STEM will go into STEM education. That's something that's very important to us and Greg Udata is not here, but he was a physics major at UConn and became a physics teacher, so that's one of the most important ways that we can help the pipeline is, you know, not everybody we produce is going to come work at your company.

Many, many will, but many will go into creating that very pipeline that you're talking about. We already work with so many groups, I think the Girl Scouts included. I'm trying to inspire, especially middle school kids and we need more women in engineering for sure, but also high school kids to go into STEM.

But with this project, we can do much more for K to 12 on STEM pipeline, and Mun, do you want to say a word about that?

MUN CHOI: When it comes to increasing the STEM pipeline it's no longer just going out and doing demonstrations. Teachers and students want to come into the University, actually work with our faculty and students on experiential learning.

And so we have programs now that are sponsored by the National Science Foundation and Department of Education. We would love to grow that program, but currently we do have a lack of space to safely work with students and teachers.

So in the demographics where the number of high school students is dropping every year starting from 2010, we need to be more aggressive in stimulating interest in STEM. It goes to the Engineering Ambassador's Program, it goes to First Robotics, Connecticut Invention

Convention, there's so much that we can do but there has to be an experiential program that's linked with it.

The STEM honors the living and learning community and STEM honors program will meet some of that demand, but you're absolutely right. That pipeline issue has to be addressed concurrently.

SENATOR FONFARA: Madam President, you were quoted in an article recently regarding this proposal, comparing it to another university and in there you were saying that you're going to be aggressive in going after students here in Connecticut, nationally and also internationally, that there's a large pool internationally.

Can you comment on well, number one, the need for a major research university to pursue students outside of Connecticut, but also that we're not going to be investing such a huge amount of money and not have places where Connecticut students will have a home?

SUSAN HERBST: Well, most of the students right now at UConn are from Connecticut, I guess over, about 70 percent.

We would like to, and we need to take international students, we need to take talented students from other states. I think most great research universities share that belief.

We want to take more Connecticut students, more talented Connecticut students and keep them in here and keep them away from the Georgia Tech, the Cal Techs the MIT. With this plan, we'll be able to expand the number.

So in terms of percentage of in state, out of state, you know, I think we're about where we

need to be, but we can just take more with the sheer numbers.

And Monica, it's amazing that Monica couldn't get in on the first round because now she's one of our star students. Somebody's going to, you know, bring great things to the University and we'll be able to name one of those buildings that we build in the next few years, but in terms of percents in state, out of state, I think that should stay the same. You always want a mix of people.

But yeah, in terms of sheer numbers, we'll be able to take so many more students to the School of Engineering, and that's one of the best things about this plan.

SENATOR FONFARA: A couple of quick questions. One, with respect to analyzing best location for the investment, is there a role for Hartford in STEM? Is there a role for other parts of our state that where you're located now with respect to STEM?

SUSAN HERBST: Yeah, absolutely. Mun, do you want to?

MUN CHOI: Yes, there are, for example, marine sciences, investment in marine sciences and ocean engineering that can impact Avery Point is a very good example of that.

We've been working with the marine scientists, with our engineers in developing joint research programs. We've also increased the number of graduate engineering courses that are offered at Avery Point.

As part of the relocation of the greater Hartford campus into downtown, we want to be able to integrate business and more engineering courses as well.

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So the faculty hiring program really doesn't have a bound. The faculty hiring program will impact many of the campuses as well as Stamford, with their emphasis on digital media and risk management. Mathematics and science education will play a big role there. So it's a comprehensive plan.

SENATOR FONFARA: And lastly, the previous two iterations of major investments in UConn have had a limited oversight from the Legislature in terms of the implementation of those efforts. How will this be different in terms of our ability to know what is going on there and our ability to understand that the investments are being made wisely, if it will be different. I hope it will be.

SUSAN HERBST: Yeah, I mean, this is a major investment and you need to see the return. You need to hold us accountable for what we promise in this proposal, and I would love to come before this Committee and others, you know, I hope more than a few times during every Session to share in the excitement that it brings.

We have so much good news right now to bring to you. I don't always feel like we have the channels to do that and you're incredibly busy, but I would love to do more regular in person reporting on the great people we're hiring, how our application pools are, how the building projects are going. We would really enjoy that.

SENATOR FONFARA: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you. Representative Mushinsky, followed by Senator Boucher and Representative Larson.

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REP. MUSHINSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for coming. I'm still trying to decide what to do with this bond request and I'm glad to see Proton here and my favorite folks in Wallingford. Just a joy to go in there and see all the inspiration and the future graduate students, the future engineering student who's here, who will save the world.

But I do have a question about the tuition. In Program Review and Investigations, our Committee, we looked at the alleged brain drain several years ago and we did find that the in-state UConn engineering students tend to stay in Connecticut and the out-of-state UConn engineering students tend to leave again and go back to where they came from upon graduation.

So if we're trying to create more engineers for the pipeline in Connecticut, why would we raise in-state tuition and reduce out-of-state tuition? Doesn't that contradict what we're trying to do?

SUSAN HERBST: I'm not sure which tuition plan you're referring to.

REP. MUSHINSKY: Well, this was a news report I had seen recently that the in-state tuition was going up and the out-of-state tuition was going down.

SUSAN HERBST: Unfortunately, neither tuition is going down. Mun, do you want to talk about the in state, out of state?

MUN CHOI: So the in-state and out-of-state tuition increase for the next two, three years has already been established as part of our efforts to increase or decrease the student to faculty ratio, but they are going up at the same grade.

And just to give you a sense of the ratio between the two tuitions, in-state tuition is

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about \$12,000, out-of-state tuition is closer to \$25,000, and despite the much higher number we are seeing it as a great value for education and 30 percent of our student body comes from out of state. But we don't have plans to have differential increases.

REP. MUSHINSKY: Okay, so that news story was incorrect.

SUSAN HERBST: Right.

MUN CHOI: Yes.

REP. MUSHINSKY: Okay, that's good to know.

SUSAN HERBST: But we're happy to get you more information on tuition. We're incredibly proud of how we've kept tuition competitive. UConn is an unbelievable value that's been recognized by Kiplinger's and so many other agencies and quite honestly the STEM investment will help us to keep tuition depressed because it brings us so much by way of new faculty (inaudible).

REP. MUSHINSKY: Okay, and then the second point is, the Program Review and Investigations has a bill right now before us, which we're seeking to challenge UConn and the State University system to help us reduce the achievement GAAP, so we're going to try to put that in statute and have you help us.

One way would be if you could target the low-achieving municipalities for scholarship help or mentoring, or whatever you can do to get some of the low-performing school areas to generate some potential engineers and folks who can work in the new technology businesses in Connecticut. That will inspire other kids in that same school system to want to achieve and that's what we're trying to do.

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SUSAN HERBST: Thank you so much for asking that. Closing the achievement GAAP, especially in urban areas, impoverished areas in Connecticut has been of highest priority at UConn, especially in the Neag School of Education.

Putting aside this current proposal, we are hiring faculty specific in that area inspired by the Commissioner, but also the faculty who we have who see it as their goal not only to do teacher preparation but also to help students who have, who are in the lowest resource communities.

So we just, if I can brag on us, we just hired a major scholar, a tenured professor, (inaudible) professor from Pennsylvania State University as we hire practically daily now. We are stealing great senior faculties from other top research universities and I would love to name them, because they're some great places, and hired somebody just in this very field from Penn State is coming for a joint appointment between the School of Education and the School of Law.

Achievement GAAP is one of our highest priorities.

REP. WIDLITZ: Senator Boucher, followed by Representative Larson, and I'm going to ask at this point if we can keep it a little bit brief. We have a student panel waiting to speak to us and we have a long list of people waiting to testify this afternoon. Thank you.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and welcome to this wonderful panel, particularly President Herbst. Do you know how supportive this General Assembly has been to the University of Connecticut? It has made historic investments of billions of dollars to bring it to the place where it rightfully

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should be because the teaching there has always been, in my view, at the top in the nation and its infrastructure needed a lot of investment and so it got that and it's enjoyed tremendous success from that point forward.

And you are all so excellent and articulate, the Provost in particular. I might say he's very impressive, a good salesman. You ought to take him on the road with you wherever you go.

And it's also a very nice contrast, by the way to the other things that we're hearing as you well know.

We have the hospitals rebelling because of historic cuts. We have municipalities here in great droves. And we have others tremendously concerned. In fact, other campuses outside of UConn students protesting what they are perceiving as high tuition increase in the guise of a very depressed and difficult economy.

So it is good to hear and listen to good news, but it's also the kind of balancing act the state has to make right now.

But I'm particularly interested, and the student was superb. Congratulations.

But the industry that was represented here, you mentioned that you went to both North Carolina, and I think, was it Pennsylvania was the other state? I would like to know what specifically were they able to provide you that we could not do in Connecticut?

STEVE SZYMANSKI: Yeah, I mentioned a couple of universities and you know, we still want to make sure that we work with, you know, a variety of research institutions.

But I think that the thing we had trouble with initially was, we didn't have a good model for how to work with UConn and it took us a while to get there, but once we figured out how to do that, again, a lot of it kind of under the leadership of Mun Choi, you know, that, once you have that model in place for how to set up a cooperative research, then we can do it again and again.

And that's what we did initially with Penn State a number of years ago and we just replicated that for future projects.

Now that we've got that in place with UConn I'm confident that we can continue to replicate that kind of model.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Do you think they've learned well at UConn to continue this with others beyond yourself?

STEVE SZYMANSKI: Absolutely. I think the leadership that's in place now knows how to work with small businesses and we want to take advantage of that.

REP. WIDLITZ: Representative Larson.

REP. LARSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have UConn by 12 tonight over Notre Dame. I don't know. Rochelle and I were debating this out in the hallway, but I think that they're going to do very, very well. I love Kelly Ferris. I think she's just a delight to watch.

Madam President, I have a couple of questions regarding the proposed Next Generation Connecticut and I certainly wholeheartedly support it.

When you have somebody like Richard Gray punching the number for you, it's going to be a great project. I worked with Richard when you

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built the stadium in East Hartford when I was mayor.

My questions are this. There's an awful lot of capital money going into the project and there's always questions around if any of those bond funds will be used for operating, because ultimately at some point you need operational money.

And I don't know if there's a percentage that's been determined on how much of this would be potentially used for long-term or short-term operations, if you will? So that's one question I have.

And then the second part of a lot of money, I would hope that there is a concerted effort to use local building contractors, particularly Connecticut companies. I happen to have a large steel company in my district, not 20 miles from your college and even a little closer to downtown Hartford, as well as local vendors.

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technologies, for example, comes to mind. They're also in my district and I think could provide an awful lot of resources to this effort of education as it's going forward.

So I don't know if you could just address those quickly for me, I would greatly appreciate it.

SUSAN HERBST: Yeah, the latter is very well taken and I think there's going to be so much building going on and so much advancing that we will need, you know, those kinds of suppliers to make this happen.

On the first point, absolutely not. You know, there is an operating request as well and there will be no operating component to the bonding money.

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But Mun, do you have the numbers right in front of you?

MUN CHOI: Yes, I do. I do. So as part of the operating budget, it ramps up year by year starting with Fiscal Year 15 with \$17.4 million. By Fiscal Year 24 that increases to \$137 million. Primarily, it's to hire the faculty members who will allow us to make that growth in enrollment.

But as part of that, UConn is also putting in our own resources so that we can hire additional faculty members and provide the scholarships to bring in the top students to our University. So it's a combination.

SUSAN HERBST: Yeah, but it has nothing to do with the bonding.

MUN CHOI: Right. It's separate. And regarding the second question you mentioned about in-state contractors. Currently we follow all state regulations, like we're supposed to, but there is no special provision for in-state preference, but we are open to that if the Legislature deems it to be productive.

But currently, we're following the procedure that's been established to us by the state.

REP. LARSON: Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you. Representative Becker.

REP. BECKER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you all for coming today. Very exciting. I had the opportunity to be at Proton just last month. Also I've had several conversations with Dr. Choi regarding the energy research going on up at UConn and given that we want UConn to be an economic engine for us, how can we help ensure that a good portion of this money that we're

sending UConn's way will be used to focus on renewable energy, energy storage, those types of things.

SUSAN HERBST: Well, it's a huge part of what we do now and we think that in terms of the disciplines where we can really leap ahead of the nation and not just catch up, energy is one of those areas.

So, Mun, maybe you want talk about this.

MUN CHOI: Yes. Currently our primary areas of research really does involve STEM, so we're going to be aligning this resource to our research strengths and interest.

We have a very successful center for clean energy engineering, very successful institute for material science that does a lot of work when it comes to advancing new batteries and super capacitors, fuel cell, micro-grid technologies as well as working on the environment.

So we believe as part of this investment, those areas are going to be strengthened, not only because of our faculty members' interest in expertise, but that's where the federal government is placing its resources.

So energy research, the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation and industry partners is going in those areas. So we want to be able to leverage Next Generation Connecticut so that we can bring as much benefit to the state as possible.

Part of this plan is to not just bring in the enrollment numbers, or increased enrollment of students and faculty, but to grow the research and enable the commercialization that's going to make an impact in the marketplace.

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Energy research will be a critical component for that.

REP. BECKER: Thank you. Just very quickly. Any plans, does UConn have any plans presently for the UConn West Hartford campus?

SUSAN HERBST: Well, not right, we want to move the people on the West Hartford campus downtown. That's part of this Next Generation Connecticut.

Right now we're doing, you know, basic maintenance to make sure everything is comfortable and safe. But you know, honestly, and I've said this before, you know, we don't want to invest so much in a campus where we really don't think that's the future for us. I think the future is downtown.

But, of course, you know, in the meantime we'll make sure that the facilities are kept up so that proper learning occurs.

REP. BECKER: I guess, a different question was, so there's no fixed plans in place now for what's next for the UConn West Hartford.

SUSAN HERBST: Right. We didn't want to get there until we were, well, we have an RFP out right now to look for space in downtown Hartford so I think we have to get that settled first before we look at what are possible uses for the West Hartford campus and we're open on that.

REP. BECKER: Okay, and just one last quick thing, Madam Chair, and that is, could you just please explain why we need the dorms at the Stamford campus? So, you know, if you want an on campus experience at UConn you go to Storrs. All of the other branches are commuter basically. If you'd address that I'd appreciate it.

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MUN CHOI: Right now, we don't have plans for dormitories. There's \$10 million that's requested to address student housing. That may take many different forms.

We may actually lease space in the existing buildings, but currently that \$10 million is just a place holder for us to find the best solution to attract students.

Right now there are many residential students that attend Stamford, but once we implement very exciting programs like digital media and risk management, we are going to get interest from students from out of state as well, or students from other parts of the state instead of coming to Storrs, will decide to go to the Stamford campus because of those exciting technologies.

So we're preparing for the future, and it's a place holder for the time being.

REP. BECKER: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SUSAN HERBST: I just, many flagship research universities like ours do have other campuses where there are residences, and I know that hasn't been the case here in Connecticut, but it's normative and it does happen elsewhere.

Because we want Stamford to be not just a replication of the UConn experience academically, but something special, something different, something that really adds value and so you know, we'll want students who want to complete their whole four years at Stamford.

It's a huge population base. They are very talented students and we want to keep them at UConn.

REP. BECKER: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for coming this afternoon and you know, I apologize to Committee Members, but we really have to move on. We can't, you know, we have 130 people signed up to speak before our public hearing today and I think there have been presentations made for the Bonding Subcommittee and we're certainly happy to welcome you back and happy to have you here today.

The information has been very exciting, very informative and I understand there are some students who wanted to say a few words, so if we could invite them to please come up.

SUSAN HERBST: Thank you very much.

REP. WIDLITZ: Good afternoon. We're happy to have you here. If you would like to each introduce yourselves as you speak so we have your names for the record, that would be great. Thanks.

ALICIA ECHEVARRIA: Hi. My name is Alicia Echevarria, and I'm a second year as master student in civil engineering. I've had a little bit of a unique past through my last year's program.

On sort of a whim I registered for the experiential entrepreneurship course for engineers that was recently developed at UConn and after enrolling in that course, I have co-invented innovative products, I've co-founded a startup company here in Connecticut and now I'm acting CEO of that company, and I've done all of this while completing the research for my master's thesis.

I do think that STEM students will restructure Connecticut's economy. I think that's the basis of the growth. I think UConn already has the vision to bridge entrepreneurship and STEM

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research through this course. I think that's evidence of that.

But I just don't think that they have the means to do it. We need this funding from the Next Generation Connecticut bill to make that more accessible to other students. Right now it's a small group of about eight to twelve students that can participate in that.

I think that, I see this bill as a trail blazer for other states as well once states see how Connecticut is bringing in this innovation. They have entrepreneurs coming straight out of college. It's not just one in every however many.

Once other states see this, they will also adopt similar bills like the Next Generation Connecticut, and I think this will ultimately spur national economic growth as well.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much. But you know, we don't want to share too many of our secrets with other states. Thank you. Please go ahead.

YAN WANG: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Yan Wang. I'm a graduate student working with Professor Diane Burgess in the School of Pharmacy in Ridgeville, Connecticut. Thank you for having me here.

So my graduate research is meaningful because of the realization of a totally implantable biosensor for long-term continuous glucose monitoring.

To achieve this goal, our group closely worked with research groups in the Institute of Materials Sciences and Electrical Engineers at University of Connecticut and also we are collaborating with Biorasis, which is a UConn startup company.

So my research contribution has mainly focused on development of a drug-eluting biocompatible coating to prevent negative tissue reaction following the implantation of the sensor, which if left unchecked would decrease sensor functionality and lead to sensor failure within one week.

So the Biorasis is the startup company mainly focused on the development and commercialization of this device and all the current employees are UConn graduates.

The realization of this long-term implantable glucose biosensors will dramatically change the life of diabetic patients. It would significantly decrease the occurrence of secondary complications and it will take us one step closer to the realization of a closer look at artificial pancreas, the Holy Grail in terms of diabetes management. Thank you.

LAURA SANTRY: My name is Laura Santry and I'm a junior in the RS program at the University of Connecticut. I'd like to say thank you for having me here today.

I am currently a STEM major in physiology and neurobiology and Spanish. I'm from Madison, Connecticut, where I've grown up my entire life, and I am also, have been privileged to be the recipient of the Nutmeg Scholarship.

The Nutmeg Scholarship is a full tuition academic scholarship available to students from the State of Connecticut to attend UConn. I cannot over emphasize the importance this made in me deciding to choose Connecticut over other competitive universities out of state. However, now that I'm at Connecticut, this scholarship is just a bonus. The University I have learned to love every day that I'm there.

From the moment that I stepped on campus, I have been exposed to research. From my very first class in freshman year, we have not only been learning from textbooks and power points and lectures, but we've been assigned reading from published journals.

We have received lectures from people currently working in the field, and I believe this has elevated my education and exposed me to what we sometimes refer to as the biological language, sort of the different terms that are used and will most definitely help me in my future education in the field of science.

Currently, I'm enrolled in a stem cell biology course. This course is unique as it is not a traditional component of undergraduate courses. I believe UConn can offer this course because Connecticut is a leader in funding stem cell research. Currently I'm being taught by scientists who are leading this field.

When I think of the Next Generation Connecticut, I think of all the other fields that UConn and State of Connecticut could be leading and the possibility to create innovative curriculum for undergraduate, graduate and doctorate students.

I think of how enticing it would be for faculty to want to come and teach and work in an institution dedicating to leading these fields, and I also think about how enticing it would be for companies and industries dedicated to this area.

This investment will provide Connecticut with a distinct educational identity that would be conducive for growth and development in many aspects of the state.

As a STEM major, and a hopeful continued resident of the State of Connecticut, I cannot help but be excited at the possibility of this new initiative and I urge you to support it.

ANDREW SILVA: Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the Next Generation Connecticut proposal.

My name is Andrew Silva. I am a resident of Enfield, Connecticut and I'm a junior chemical engineering major at UConn.

I'm here today as an advocate of investment, progress and the future of our state's education. I believe that passing the ACT CONCERNING NEXT GENERATION CONNECTICUT would be the perfect demonstration of Connecticut's commitment to those who are pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

All of the facts about the large scale impacts this bill will have on the Connecticut economy and on UConn's enrollment have been presented. So today, I would like to describe how this bill will have an impact on the individuals that will cause those large-scale improvements in economic and enrollment statistics.

Now when I was a junior in high school looking at colleges, I was pretty confident that I wanted to pursue a career in engineering. With this in mind, I started looking at the schools that I felt valued and specialized in science and engineering. Carnegie Mellon, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Worcester Polytechnic Institute all made that initial list.

When it came time to choose schools, financial reasons forced me to turn down my first choice, Rensselaer and enroll in UConn. Now while it wasn't my first choice at that point in time, I

can say today, with confidence, that I would never change my decision to come to UConn.

When I graduate, the diploma that I will receive will be the least of what this University has given me. At this point in my college career, I have been able to conduct undergraduate research, secured two engineering related internships, and lead an organization called Engineers Without Borders that uses sustainable engineering to help the world's poorest communities. These communities include those in Nicaragua, India and we've also started a project here in Hartford at Pope Park.

Now, all of this has been made possible because of the education I've received in class and also because of the experiences I've gained outside of class in engineering-based extracurricula organization.

With an initiative like Next Generation Connecticut, we can enhance this education and these opportunities as well as provide a larger volume of students with these opportunities.

While I have found UConn to be a great school, Connecticut has the potential to become a hub of excellence in STEM areas. The passing of Next Generation Connecticut would allow UConn to pull in many students who are looking to attend an institution that specifically values its science and engineering programs. In fact, UConn would become one of those institutions.

On the individual level, if I were to make my college wish list ten years from now with this initiative in place, UConn would be at the top of that list.

This is an investment in students like me and my classmates, an investment in professors I

get to see every day and in the residents of Connecticut that deserve a stronger economy.

The students of this bill who will benefit most likely may not even know that they want to pursue a career in science and engineering. This could change their mind. This could convince them to fulfill their potential to become Connecticut's new engineers, new entrepreneurs or new doctors.

They may not know that this is the role they will eventually fill so I'm here today on their behalf to support this bill.

Let's make Connecticut more competitive, more innovative and more supportive of our next generation. Thank you.

ALEX BALDENKO: Hi. My name is Alex Baldenko. I'm a PhD student at the UConn math department, and originally a New York State resident.

It's well known that math is the language of science and engineering, but I'm here to advocate the Math Department's direct impact on the Connecticut state economy.

Over the course of my PhD studies at UConn I have had the opportunity to take graduate courses, engage in advanced mathematical research, teach undergraduate courses and advise undergraduate students undertaking their own mathematical research.

During our successful RU Research for Undergraduate Program last summer, I had the pleasure to work with Connecticut residents Rebecca Simonson and David Viershen. David is currently a senior majoring in mathematics at UConn who intends to work as an actuary in Connecticut. He recently came back to me and told me that both his technical knowledge and abstract reasoning gained during his

mathematical research has helped him excel in both his course work and in securing internships.

And I've had a similar experience. The technical graduate course work and my research at the UConn Math Department provided me with strong, logical reasoning, analytical and quantitative skills, which sounds nice but I recently began a job search and I was unsure how these skills would work for me in the private sector.

Within days of starting the search, many employers from diverse sectors had explicitly stated that these skills, both technical and abstract make me an extremely sought after employee.

As a graduate student, I have greatly benefitted from the UConn Math Department and upon graduation I intend to work in the private sector and directly benefit the great State of Connecticut.

In addition, I have had the pleasure of teaching and guiding countless other students like David toward doing the very same. Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you so much for putting the face of UConn forward. You are all very impressive, and you understand that when you come to the Connecticut Legislature to testify, you make this commitment that you're going to stay in Connecticut.

Yes.

ALEX BALDENKO: So yeah, it sounds like it might be lip service but in fact it's not. Both of my siblings and I have already decided to relocate to Connecticut. Both my siblings are moving to New Haven.

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REP. WIDLITZ: Great. That's what we like to hear.
Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA: If I could just echo my Co-Chair's remarks and say that what's not said here is that, for not just the very impressive people who have spoken to us, the students, but also those of you who are behind the speakers that most likely all of you will be gone by the time this is fully implemented and that says a lot about you and how you feel about the University and this pursuit in terms of your life's endeavors and we thank you for being here.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much. Now you have to go back to work. Go back to school and finish those term papers and do all those research projects. Thank you for being here this afternoon. We enjoyed having you.

And with that, we are going to return to the rest of the public hearing and we are now up to speaker number 12. Looks like John Eltzer? Is John here? John L. Seltzer? Please identify yourself for the record.

RICHARD SMITH: John had to leave. I thought you advised that we were going to take his place. I think I'm number 71 and Paul is number 23. And God bless you for the job you're doing here. It's a long day.

I'm from the Town of Deep River. I'm the First Selectman. My name is Richard Smith. Paul is from the Town of East Lyme and we would like to talk to you in opposition to the car tax.

PAUL FORMICA: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to sneak in here. I will not read my entire testimony as you have it. I'll just give you the highlights or the low lights.

I'm the First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme and also the current Chairman of the

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accelerate the competitive marketplace here in Connecticut and complete many of the aspects of restructuring that were begun many years ago while allowing the electric distribution companies to focus on that distribution and transmission function, while providing opportunity for consumers in a safe environment to take advantage of some of the retail competitive options in the state.

REP. WIDLITZ: Any questions? Thank you very much for your testimony.

DAN DOLAN: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Next is Diane Burgess, followed by the Honorable Richard Moccia, and I apologize for my mispronunciation of that name earlier.

KAZEM KAZEROUNIAN: Good afternoon. Diane Burgess had to leave and she has asked us to represent her point of view. My name is Kazem Kazerounian. I'm the Interim Dean of the School of Engineering and I thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee.

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Many of the speakers before me spoke eloquently about the economic impacts of increasing the number of graduates in science and engineering from the University of Connecticut. I will not repeat those points, but I would like to elaborate on one point.

Over the recent months, a number of independent reports from MIT, the Howard School of Business, the Boston Consulting Group, the Hackett Group and a number of other credible organizations revealed and described a recent trend in American companies with major manufacturing activities overseas.

In fact, 37 percent of the companies with sales, annual sales of \$1 billion or above, and 48 percent of the companies with annual sales

of \$10 billion and above that have expensive operations overseas are either considering or actively planning to move either all or part of their activities back to the United States.

Last year alone, 100 companies returned back to the United States, a phenomenon that's known as reverse migration or re-shoring.

Where in the United States these companies relocate to cannot be taken for granted by any state. It's true that economic incentives by the states has a major factor to play in their decision, but by far, the most, the single most important factor in that decision is availability of a large, talented, educated and well-trained technology workforce.

As the State of Connecticut stands to tremendously benefit from this reverse migration, only if we as parents, educators, employers and citizens in the State of Connecticut choose now to invest in the future of our children, only if we support Next Generation Connecticut.

I thank you and I would like to yield to my colleague here.

JEREMY TEITELBAUM: Thank you very much. My name is Jeremy Teitelbaum. I'm the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awarded 750 undergraduate degrees and over 200 graduate degrees in STEM fields, including physics, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, the life sciences and psychology last year. Every undergraduate at the University of Connecticut who received the degree in a STEM field takes their basic courses in the College of Arts and Sciences.

I know the time is short. I would just like to say that an investment such as Next Generation Connecticut is an investment in the long-term future of the economic growth of the state. The transition from basic research in science, technology and mathematics through engineering, product development and eventually the formation of companies and generation of economic activity is a long but time established way to generate a better future for the state.

I can give you a couple of quick examples of how basic research can turn into marketable products.

One of our faculty members, Dr. Michael Lyons, who's the head of molecular and cell biology is interested in fundamental questions in immunology but in the course of that research needed a way to conduct many assays quickly on a large class of proteins. That technique, which he developed for his particular research has broader applications in the live sciences.

We currently have a group of faculty in mathematics and in psychology and in statistics working with CIGNA to apply the latest techniques in mathematics and statistics to extract useful information from their customer database.

There are many other examples currently going on at the University and I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you very much.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for being here with us today and for waiting so long to testify. Are there questions? Thank you very much. Richard Moccia, followed by Larry Kucharski and Michael Criss.

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BARBARA ALEXANDER: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Next is Faquir Jain, followed by Jay Fletcher and Liz DuPont Diehl.

FAQUIR JAIN: Good afternoon, Madam Chair and esteemed Legislators. My name is Faquir Jain. I'm Vice-President of UConn's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. I'm currently a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and in the newly formed biomedical engineering department at UConn.

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I also serve as the coordinator, co-coordinator of Connecticut Microelectronics and Optoelectronics Consortium, which is comprised of UConn, Yale, Trinity, U. Bridgeport, U. New Haven, Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University as well as 18 small and large industrial corporations such as Phonon in Simsbury, JDSU in Bloomfield, ATMI in Danbury and TranSwitch in Shelton.

CMOC provides forum, via its annual symposium for electronic and photonic research and development applied to energy conversion, biosensors and consumer electronics.

This year's 22nd annual symposium is on March 13 at Yale (inaudible).

The STEM-focused Next Generation support will significantly enhance research involving students and industry engineers and scientists.

Its synergy with Technology Incubation Park at Storrs and Bioscience Connecticut initiative will prime the engine for creating new small businesses and accelerate job creation in this state for the next 20 years and more.

The evidence of STEM-related industries creating more jobs per dollars is well known, and so is the fact that towns where technologies parks are located have higher per capita income per a recent article in the Hartford Courant.

A stronger UConn with the state-of-the-art research facilities will be more conducive to enhance collaboration with industry as well as nationally recognized private schools such as Yale, Harvard and MIT.

This will promote Connecticut students remaining in the state and opening new industries and strengthening existing ones.

The UConn School of Engineering with significant student enrollment and faculty size will achieve a critical mass needed to excel nationally. This will better serve the state enterprises.

With the exception of few elite schools, most of the rank engineering institutions have faculty size in each department ranging from 70 to 100. A critical mass of faculty and students is needed to accelerate excellence. Next Generation will protect the previous investment of \$2.5 billion and accelerate job creation. Thank you, Madam Chair and esteemed Legislators.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for waiting to give your testimony, and for your testimony. Are there questions? Okay, thank you very much.

FAQUIR JAIN: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Jay Fletcher, followed by Liz DuPont-Diehl and then our Consumer Counsel CONSUMER COUNSEL ELIN SWANSON KATZ.

REP. WIDLITZ: Okay, the reason I ask is, usually bond funds are capital projects that go out about 20 years or so.

RON CRETARO: That's right.

REP. WIDLITZ: But thank you for the clarification. Are there any further comments? Questions? Thank you very much. Next is Ed Mone, followed by Carol Polifroni. I hope I'm not killing these names. Not here? Jeff Bridges, followed by Robert Mallozzi. Oh, I'm sorry. Who do we have here? You didn't sit down fast enough so I called the next name. You are Carol?

CAROL POLIFRONI: Yes, I am.

REP. WIDLITZ: Okay. Good evening, Carol.

CAROL POLIFRONI: Good evening, Committee Chairpersons and Committee people. I'm Carol Polifroni. I'm Professor of Nursing at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing and I am President of the American Association of University Professors at UConn.

Thank you for holding this hearing and for bearing with us through this long day that you have had and the graciousness that you've shown to all of us.

Today I speak in conceptual support of Senate Bill 840 NEXT GENERATION CONNECTICUT. You have my written testimony and so I just want to highlight a couple of things.

First, AAUP applauds the bold leadership of Governor Malloy and President Susan Herbst in putting forth this legislation. In our opinion from AAUP, STEM is at the beginning and at the intersection of all of everything within society, whether we speak about personalized medicine and genomics, whether it's about the rising seas and potential shoreline

devastation, energy and rising fuel costs. Prosthetic devices for veterans returning from our wars, hearing devices for our aging population, bridges and highways for moving more and more people, music for the unborn child and development of his or her language skills, food and food growth for our needed population.

Whichever of these examples you choose to address, STEM is at its core, and each one is a societal need.

Therefore, expansion of UConn's ability to meet our state and nation's STEM needs is essential and it will instill Connecticut economic growth.

In my own work in enhancing diversity of the nursing workforce and all the healthcare workforce I also know through my work at the Academy of Health Sciences and Nursing in Hartford that we need to address STEM both at the collegiate level and also at the elementary level, which has been discussed by other speakers.

AAUP, our faculty, our researchers at the University of Connecticut are ready to help the State of Connecticut invest in an area that will be an economic engine for all of us and help to meet the needs of our people. Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for your testimony. Are there questions? Okay, we have your testimony. Thank you.

CAROL POLIFRONI: Thank you. Have a good night.

REP. WIDLITZ: Jeff Bridges, followed by Robert Mallozzi.

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advantage of when we look at regional services.
Thanks.

SENATOR FONFARA: Thanks, Madam Chair.

REP. WIDLITZ: Any further questions? Okay, thank
you very much.

JEFF BRIDGES: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Robert Mallozzi, followed by Bindu
Prabakhar and Mag Morelli. Is Robert Mallozzi
here? Okay. Bindu Prabakhar? No. Mag
Morelli. Okay. Dr. Ted Rasmussen. Becky
Merola's left? John Silander. Okay. We're
going through this list. Joe McGee. Okay.
Come on up. Good evening.

JOSEPH MCGEE: Good evening, Madam Chair. Members
of the Committee. I submitted testimony. I'm
going to summarize it. I'll do it quickly.

SB 840

My name is Joseph McGee. I'm Vice-President of
The Business Council of Fairfield County. I'm
here this evening with Sandra Goldstein,
President of The Stamford Downtown Services
District and Rachel Goldberg, General Counsel
of the Stamford Redevelopment Commission.

Our organizations combined represent the
businesses in both downtown Stamford where the
UConn campus is located, and county wide.

We strongly support the Next Generation
Connecticut Initiative presented to the
Committee by UConn President Susan Herbst.

The Connecticut economy has been plagued by
slow job creation over the last 20 years, in
fact, the slowest in the nation. The
investment proposed by the Governor and
President Herbst recognizes that "colleges and
universities are essential to the growth of a
knowledge-based economy".

The federal support for academic research study issued in October by the Congressional Research Service states "approximately 80 percent of the leading industries in this nation result from research conducted at academic institutions." It's an extraordinary statistic.

It also concludes that "long-term competitiveness of a nation is linked to the strength of academic research infrastructure".

Every major analysis of the Connecticut economy over the last 25 years, and I go back to when Weicker did them in the early 90s, I was the Commissioner of Economic Development, stressed this point, the need for the state and its academic institutions to increase the basic research and to commercialize that research for the benefit of economic growth and job creation in Connecticut.

Success in the new economy requires innovation and innovation thrives when new ideas are welcomed and nurtured. However, if you look at the America's Top States for Business Report issued in 2012 by CNBC, Connecticut placed second in education. We do very well in education, but it was stagnated at about 18th in innovation and overall we're 43rd. Not a great report card.

However, in New York, and this is really interesting. We always think of California as the center of innovation in the economy, Silicone Valley, New York has made extraordinary strides to diversity its economy from financial service exclusively into a broader economic base, and they have partnerships with Columbia University to create a new institute for data science and engineering and launched its New York City media lab to promote innovation in media

science and digital media and they are now ranked number one in the county in innovation.

And why I bring this up. The economy of Connecticut is very linked to the economy in New York City. Financial services, as they grew financial services we captured it. Right? We had a state strategy approved by this Legislature to go after the investment banking business. Very successful by every measure. No question about it.

What's now happening in New York is this explosion in innovation around digital media, new media, information technology, right? So we're in Fairfield County and we're seeing this really going to Jersey, Westchester, and the critical piece here is this UConn piece in Stamford. I want to stress this.

If you look at the companies that have come in, your tax credit has brought a lot of production in, state tax credit. We've got you know, different labs, I just forgot the name of it. I'll give it to you in a minute. Blue Sky Studios, NBC Sports, WWE all are asking our business counsel for area employees in STEM with digital media.

So this issue, this proposal of UConn to create this digital media program, you know, gaining digital media, financial services risk management, creating a four-year institution with a housing option, allows students from, it links now the UConn system to the economy much closer.

So this growing economy in New York spreading out into the tri-state area, into Connecticut somewhat. Now, all of a sudden you've got UConn opportunities to be in Storrs, to come down to Stamford for a year, we've got a

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housing option, where you can do a digital media and then get internships with companies.

When we've got NBC Sports looking for interns in digital media to be meontics in Russia, which are coming up, they're desperate for this. They moved out of 30 Rock in Manhattan. They're now in Stamford. Do they have to go back to Columbia to get this or can they get it from UConn?

I mean, it's an extraordinary opportunity. So I wanted to stress that point about why the Stamford option with housing makes some sense, and we really feel it's a public/private partnership here where the private sector is prepared to really help out on this. This is a big deal for us, and I just want to, that's why I'm here.

So I'll stop. I have my testimony. It's getting late, but I strongly applaud this. This has been a 20-year goal of the business community to broaden this academic link between the growth of business, the growing parts of our economy and UConn.

And I would say, you know, just parenthetically, UConn's gone from 1997, 78 (inaudible) federal research. It jumped up to 68. It's jumped ten points. Just to give you a scale. We did \$123 million of federal research in UConn last year.

To get up to the top ten you've got to get to \$400 million. John Hopkins is at a billion. So this is, when you want to go from a top 25 to a top 10 and really grow the economy and have a huge impact, you've got to jump up the investment. So thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much. Are there questions? Thank you. John Murphy.

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And finally, we need to expand sales tax, the sales tax to certain professional services and luxury purchases.

These ideas could bring in hundreds of millions of dollars to be distributed fairly and help working families and small businesses by leveling the playing field. Thank you for your time.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you for your testimony, John. Does anyone have questions, comments? Okay, thank you very much.

JOHN MURPHY: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Is someone here in place of Rose Ferrante? Got testimony for Rose? Come on up.

JUSTIN NELSON: Rose could not stay this evening, so I'm filling in for her. Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

REP. WIDLITZ: Excuse me. Before you start, could you identify yourself.

JUSTIN NELSON: Yes. I'm Justin Nelson of Torrington and thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in regard to Senate Bill 840 Next Generation Connecticut.

I support this bill because it not only benefits the University of Connecticut, but the entire State of Connecticut, positioning our state on the global stage.

Not only are traditional majors such as chemistry and engineering part of the STEM initiative, but agriculture is included to the fields of biotechnology, environmental sustainability and human health.

The University of Connecticut originated from Storrs Agricultural School that with that

foundation grew into the University we know of today as one of the nation's top research institutions as giving back right here within the State of Connecticut.

UConn could not be where it is today without the backbone provided by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a foundation for the rest of the University based on groundbreaking legislation of the Moral Land Grant Acts.

UConn is providing a future job force that will drive the economic development in Connecticut through its strategic focus on the STEM arena. This will attract businesses to the State of Connecticut and their hopes of taking advantage of the well-educated workforce that the University will provide.

The increases in new faculty and building construction will attract students that are the best and brightest within our state, nationally, and globally, which will help the State of Connecticut's ability to compete on an economic global level.

Connecticut has one of the diverse agricultural systems in our country and has a driving force in the economy over \$3.5 billion encompassing all aspects of STEM teaching and research.

Our agriculture industry, heavily entrenched in the STEM concept, currently employs over 20,000 and through increased STEM funding will increase that number significantly.

With Next Generation Connecticut funding, this industry will have the opportunity through advancement and agricultural sciences, a vital part of STEM.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. A third generation horticulturist, my hope is to

achieve a position as an extension agent with an institution such as the State of Connecticut University of Connecticut. I'd like to stay in our state to help with that economic driving force and as an extension agent I would apply the research from land grant universities and agricultural experiment stations in a practical way for the public to gain a benefit from their investments.

For example, I would hope to reach out to wholesale nurseries about increasing sustainability by using concepts such as integrated pest management.

These businesses such as Pride's Corner Farms have revenues of over \$34 million and more than 200 people employed in their business.

So, through the Next Generation Connecticut it would not only affect those that we think of traditionally such as chemistry and engineering, but also the agricultural sciences based on what our life is. Any questions?

REP. WIDLITZ: Are there any questions? Okay, thank you very much for waiting and giving us your testimony.

JUSTIN NELSON: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Next Michael Milone, followed by Larry Renfro.

MICHAEL MILONE: Honorable Committee Members, good evening and thank you for allowing me to address you, and I also want to thank you for displaying such incredible endurance to commit so much time to these important issues.

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My name is Michael Milone. I am the Town Manager in the Town of Cheshire and with me is Jim Jascott, who is our Finance Director, and I am here to oppose the elimination of the

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And if the purpose of this proposal to re-allocate the PILOT under ECS is to increase funding for education, this is only going to serve, you're moving money from one side of the house to the other and essentially allowing Peter to pay Paul. Mayor.

BETSY PATTERSON: Thank you, Matt. There is perhaps an unintended consequence of eliminating the PILOT of state-owned property. In any PILOT town there is some inherent tension between the host community and the state institution.

Mansfield and UConn currently enjoy a positive working relationship built over the years through concerted efforts of both parties.

However, in Mansfield there is always the tension between the community and UConn around the University's plans for growth. The Governor's proposed Next Generation Connecticut, which will include the hiring of many new faculty and staff and the addition of 5,000 new students in Storrs is a good case in point.

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While Next Generation Connecticut may have many benefits for Mansfield and the region, it will also impact our natural resources, municipal services and quality of life.

Right now our citizens know that Mansfield will receive PILOT funding to help mitigate some of the impact on the community associated with UConn's development.

If the state eliminates the PILOT on state-owned property it will stimulate more significant concerns regarding the University's plans to develop as a Tier 1 research institution and erode the town/university relationship that we have worked so hard to build over the past many years.