



University of New Haven

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

February 15, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the University of New Haven, I am submitting testimony on HB 5048: AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, and in support of funding for the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program.

We appreciate the legislature's continued support of the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships for Connecticut students to attend in-state public or private, non-profit colleges.

At the University of New Haven, in the 2023-24 award year, 640 CT residents received a grant from this program. However, additional funding is needed for this program. Although we attempt to award as many eligible students as possible, we are still limited in how many CT residents can receive this scholarship based upon our annual allocation. Additionally, to award as many eligible students as possible, we limit the amount of the scholarship each student receives where they are receiving approximately half of what the maximum scholarship amount can be.

We appreciate the significant level of ARPA funding that has been allocated to this program over the last three years and **we would ask the Committee to please consider increasing the general fund appropriation for this program now that the ARPA funding must be spent by December 31, 2024.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Chiaro".

Erin Chiaro
Director of Financial Aid
University of New Haven