

Good afternoon,

My name is Holly Block, Assistant Director for Recruitment, Office of Recruitment and Admissions, College of Staten Island.

I appear today to testify why CUNY desperately needs \$350M in funding in order for our students and colleges to thrive, I also would like to spotlight's The College of Staten Island's dire financial straits.

My testimony today is based on 15 years of experience at CUNY and 14 years in my position as Assistant Director for Recruitment. I have also chaired and co-chaired UCOR, the University Committee on Recruitment since 2010.

I am also a stakeholder. My husband is a current adult learner earning his Master's Degree in Education at CSI and hopes to become a Math teacher in the DOE. My 14-year old daughter trains at CSI, which hosts the only competitive diving program on Staten Island.

I am a native Staten Islander and have lived on Staten Island my entire life. The College of Staten Island, one of only two colleges left on Staten Island, is currently \$12M in debt.

Certainly, some of that debt can be attributed to a 29% drop in New Frosh enrollment in only the last four years—from 2018 till present, along with the lowest number of college applications in 8 years. I am here to suggest that the plummeting numbers are not only due to the pandemic.

When I complained about the workload and lack of resources in 2017, the few resources and staff under my purview were almost completely removed by my supervisors over the same past four years.

As Ass't. Director for Recruitment, my unit in Recruitment and Admissions specifically oversaw the recruitment of freshmen. My team and I were able to achieve the highest New Frosh numbers in the College's history, achieving these results with a very small team. I have been working 500–1000 plus hours in overtime each year, since 2009.

Yet the very same leadership whose management directives contributed to the 29% drop in CSI's enrollment have been placed in charge of fixing the problem.

CSI's drop in New Frosh enrollment numbers have set CSI back over 20 years. Our current leaders have suggested that we should hit students with increased fees in order to partially make up the shortfall.

I am here today as a Recruitment officer to testify that Recruitment units need dedicated resources. We have dedicated our lives toward recruiting a diverse population of retainable new, students, and are tireless workers who recruit on the front lines before hours, after hours,

weekends and on holidays amid a COVID endemic, rising crime and sagging enrollment numbers. We are the face of CUNY.

If the Board succeeds in acquiring a \$350M budget award, I am asking that the Trustees actively participate in cleaning house at CSI. Specific requests for staffing should be closely examined and determined that it is not wasteful, redundant or retaliatory, is not a mechanism to cover up malfeasance, and does not deprive or divert funds from other departments in the College who need resources as well.

Hold the proper people accountable for mismanagement of the Colleges and award the funds to the units and departments who can make a difference.