

Theresa Utton

Subject: FW: Testimony
Attachments: Palmer testimony.docx

From: Palmer, Christine M. []
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: Testimony

My name is Christine Palmer, and I am a faculty member at Castleton State College and a proud resident of Vermont. I am writing to give testimony to the desperate need of state funding of higher education. Students are the future lifeblood of Vermont, and yet we currently the second to lowest state in the nation for level of state support for higher education. This lack of funding is putting an enormous burden on our students and greatly limiting their ability to succeed in the future. Cutting funding even further will only exacerbate this situation and make it harder, or impossible, for even more Vermonters to get a higher education. I have seen this firsthand as many of my students struggle to make ends meet while working multiple jobs and still trying to perform in their classes, classes that are vital to their ability to secure future careers. One student spoke with me yesterday to apologize that he would probably not be returning next semester because tuition was increasing and he was already past his financial limit. These students are our future, and if we continue to set them up to fail, to be saddled with debt, to be unable to pursue higher education and careers beyond, we will be creating a negative future for Vermont as well. State schools are already suffering major negative consequences of state underfunding, and while we are actively pursuing alternative revenue sources, it is imperative that we do not lose what little state funding we have. Our students are the future of Vermont, please do not cut funding for higher education.