



**STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 3, 2017 MEETING**  
Collectively Created by UConn College Democrats  
**CONTACT:** uconncollegedemocrats@gmail.com

**OCTOBER 7th, 2017** On Tuesday October 3rd, the UConn College Democrats had State Senator Gayle Slossberg speak at our meeting to discuss the Connecticut state budget, with a particular focus on the University of Connecticut. State Senator Slossberg voted for the Republican budget. We invited State Senator Slossberg in good faith of respecting our democratic values.

While giving an introduction on her background as a public servant, State Senator Slossberg discussed her start in politics on her local PTA board. As a member of the PTA, State Senator Slossberg worked to have books with racial epithets removed from grade school libraries. While describing this work, State Senator Slossberg explicitly used the N-word, without euphemisms, within the context of its presence in the books. We have received a formal apology from State Senator Slossberg about the use of this word.

We, as a club, believe that State Senator Slossberg's use of this word is reprehensible and unjustifiable. There is no excuse for her use of this kind of language, regardless of context.

We understand the visceral reaction some of our members had and will be starting a dialogue about this language at our next meeting.

Our country requires strong leadership, especially at our institutions of higher education. We, as the next generation of leaders, must not shy away from challenges, but rise to meet them in a way that befits the world class education we pursue at Connecticut's flagship university. We aspire for the UConn College Democrats to be a place of open discussion, where all identities and voices are heard and respected.

We seek to create dialogue across political lines, especially within our own party. However, the use of this word transcends political opinion and partisanship, and we refute the use of this word and any others that target the identities of groups affected by racism.

We, as College Democrats, support moral leaders and encourage our club members to grow as moral leaders themselves. We are morally obligated to speak truth to power.

Signed,

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Margaret Chernovetz

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