

**Testimony of
Dr. Jennifer Ozimek
General Medicine Clinic
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**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
February 18, 2020
RE: UConn Health Budget**

My name is Jennifer Ozimek. I am a primary care doctor and assistant professor at UConn. I was born at St. Francis hospital, raised in Avon, CT, attended high school in Farmington, CT and graduated from the UConn School of medicine in 2014. I currently live in Simsbury with my husband who is also a primary care doctor at UConn. Thank you very much for taking the time to hear my testimony today.

While in high school, I had the chance to visit the health center and was given the opportunity to dissect a liver and heart. It was in that moment that I fell in love with the medicine and its ability to combine my love for science with my passion for helping others. I also knew that after touring the school, it was my dream to attend UConn medical school. As a sophomore in college, I applied through their early decision program and was accepted. From day one, UConn medical school had me seeing patients in the community. I knew through the mentors that I met at UConn that UConn was my first choice for a residency program.

As a resident, I had the privilege to practice at the general medicine clinic at UConn Health. The faculty who taught me in clinic ignited my passion for primary care. The dedication these faculty have for their patients is apparent in every single patient encounter. At UConn's general medicine clinic, I have had the opportunity to treat a largely Medicare/ Medicaid population. As their primary care physician, I am able to advocate for their access to health care. I am always able to get my patients the testing or specialists that they need by working within the robust UConn health system. I have a strong sense of community and commitment to my patients which drove me to stay on after completing my residency in 2017 and my chief year in 2018 as faculty and a primary care provider at UConn in the internal medicine clinic.

UConn has taught me how to approach patients as people, not just look at the disease that may affect them. Since becoming an attending at UConn I have been able to work towards continuous improvement for the patients we serve. I work with a multidisciplinary team to provide a consultative service for chronic pain patients to help address the opioid epidemic in Connecticut. Not only has this provided a service for chronic pain patients but also provides education regarding pain management to providers within our community. My newest initiative is working with the dental program to help improve access to dental care for all of our patients. As a physician, I learn from my patients and colleagues every day. The academic environment at UConn is one that pushes everyone to always strive to learn the latest, continually improve through numerous quality improvement initiatives and do the best for our patients. Without UConn health, there are countless patients who be unable to have access to the best medical care. I feel so fortunate to stay on as part of the UConn community.