

**Testimony of Jose M. Alexandre, CEUI, SEIU Local 511
Regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget for the CT State University System
February 18, 2020**

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative DiMassa, Representative Horn, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Jose M. Alexandre and I am a proud steward and member of CEUI, SEIU Local 511 which represents approximately 200 workers at the UConn Health Center. I have been employed by UConn Health as a Washroom Technician for over twelve (12) years where I clean and sterilize the roughly 7,000 cages that house the mice, rats, and other animals used in academic research.

On behalf of the nearly 4,000 union members who are employed at UHC, I am submitting this testimony to urge you to maintain the grant funding necessary for UConn Health to continue its important mission of Connecticut's only public hospital and academic medical center.

UConn Health Center provides the important and necessary resources to teach the doctors, dentists and scientists of tomorrow with a tuition that is affordable for Connecticut residents. UConn's dental school is among the top in the nation and is the only dental school in Connecticut. 95% of UConn School of Medicine and 86% of UConn School of Dental Medicine students are Connecticut residents.

UConn Health Center is an economic driver for Connecticut. It generates \$2.2 billion in economic impact for the region and the state. It brings in over \$100 million in research grants and contracts from outside the state. UConn Health's Residency Programs drive more than \$122 million in federal funds annually to hospitals throughout Central Connecticut, used to provide medical resident jobs.

As employees of UConn Health and as citizens of Connecticut, we are very concerned about the negative impact on our community and our state if a private corporation takes over this much-needed public institution. To continuously describe UHC as an "unsustainable subsidy," discounts the immensely positive investment UConn Health plays in the health and well-being of the residents of this great state.

I strongly urge you to keep UConn as a public hospital for the public good by ensuring continued state support for all aspects of its operations.

Sincerely,
Jose M. Alexandre
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