



Greetings/salutations

My name is Chris DeFrancesco. I live in Newington, and I work at UConn Health.

It recently was suggested that some people in positions of state leadership and influence view UConn Health as little more than a **failing business that the state is subsidizing**. I'm here to tell you that perception is sadly short-sighted.

I can't help but wonder if the following folks would agree with that assertion:

Adults living with sickle cell disease, as the New England Sickle Cell Institute at UConn Health is their best option for care once they outgrow their pediatrician.

Parents of children with cystic fibrosis, as UConn Health's pathology lab is involved in 70 percent of newborn CF screenings in Connecticut.

Minority students who became – or who are on their way to becoming – doctors, dentists, or scientists, after the Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health exposed them to a path they otherwise may never have considered.

Indigent populations who've been cared for by trainees under the supervision of UConn Health faculty at places like the South Park Inn, migrant farmworker clinics, and dental missions.

Elderly patients who are discharged from the hospital into a post-acute care facility, where a UConn geriatrician is their physician, optimizing continuity of care and reducing re-admissions.

Heart attack and stroke survivors who had favorable outcomes because of UConn Health's record door-to-balloon and door-to-needle times.

Anyone who has received care from a **paramedic, critical care nurse, or emergency medicine provider**.

Recovering alcoholics, who might not even realize, the science behind their treatment was greatly advanced by the Alcohol Research Center at UConn Health, an incomparable world-renowned program that has earned tens of millions of dollars in continuous NIH funding since it started more than 40 years ago.

I have an administrative position at UConn Health, and for the last 12-plus years I've had the privilege of telling these stories, and others like them, that make UConn Health an **indispensable public asset worthy of continued investment**.

Jeopardizing the future of UConn Health also jeopardizes the future of some of our most vulnerable populations. And if we truly believe that one of the responsibilities of government is to protect its most vulnerable citizens, **we are failing**... if we fail to invest in the state's only academic medical center.

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