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My name is Ibrahim Elali, I'm a nephrologist and the president of UHC-AAUP. We represent over 600 faculty members at the UConn school of medicine, school of dental medicine, and research scientist Doctors at UConn Health.

We all know **UConn Health** is the only public medical school, and public hospital in the state of Connecticut. It is nationally recognized in different venues, including medical education, innovation, clinical research, and cutting-edge gene therapy just to name a few.

UConn Health continues to grow, and per the latest figures, UConn health recently reported 60% increase in clinical revenues over last 6 years, a 30% increase in class sizes 90 % percent are Connecticut citizens, and increase in research awards despite the big difficulties our scientists are facing every day in keeping up with the high fringe rate in order to stay competitive to conduct high impact clinical research compared to our peers in the neighborhood. According to the UConn president, UConn health contributes \$2.2 Billion in overall economic impact to the State of Connecticut.

We deliver the only outpatient specialty clinical care to the area, and with ever ballooning healthcare cost, there is no substitute for state-owned health care providing equal healthcare services to all our citizens alike. We provide an affordable opportunity to obtain medical education; students then stay in Connecticut and provide healthcare services to many state underserved communities.

We as stake holders at UConn health and as a physician representing my colleagues in clinical, dental and research we oppose the privatization of UConn health, we believe if wasn't for the unfunded pension liability, we have the foundation for a bright future, and this not a secret anymore. Privatizing UConn health would definitely result in weakening the healthcare ecosystem of the state, fragmenting and weakening clinical education of future physicians training serving the state, and losing control over the cost of health care delivery to the most vulnerable population of our state. It has been published that the total federal and state Medicaid spending for Connecticut during 2016 amounted to about \$7.9 billion. The federal government paid 58.2 percent of these costs, while the state paid the remaining 41.8 percent. Medicaid accounted for 23.6 percent of Connecticut's budget in 2015.

UConn Health is the backbone of the state of Connecticut public medical education and healthcare. We are not a business enterprise; we are the state public medical infrastructure. Let's help UConn health grow to become more successful, we think and believe it is possible.

Supporting and funding Uconn Health is not just supporting a public institute, it is providing the opportunity to the less fortunate citizen to afford expensive medical education, it is a scientific research engine, jobs creator, tax contributor, innovation hub, and most importantly it could be the future model of a public affordable healthcare system.

Ibrahim Elali MD
President, UCHC-AAUP