



February 18, 2020
Ana Gonzalez, Phlebotomist
Uconn Health Center
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Committee, my name is Ana Gonzalez and I am a phlebotomist at UConn Health. I have been working at this hospital for three years. I have been working in laboratory settings for fifteen years.

Today, I am asking you to fully fund the budget for UConn Health so that we can be fully staffed in order to treat our patients with top notch care.

I came to this work because of my mother. She is a medical assistant and a phlebotomist at St. Francis. My grandmother is a nurse. I grew up in the medical field, so I always knew I was going to be working in a medical setting. A doctor that my mother worked for recommended that I come work as a phlebotomist, and I have been doing it ever since. I'm a people person, and I like talking to new people, so that's one of my favorite aspects of this job.

On a daily basis, I register our patients at the front desk and check them into the database. I also work in the draw stations to draw blood and process the specimens for processing in another area of the hospital. Some days when we are short staffed, I will run 50 to 60 patients through the system. On days I'm running a station alone, I will go check somebody in, bring them back to the draw station, draw their blood, bring the patient back out to the waiting room, come back to process the specimen, and go back to the front area to get the next patient.

Short staffing affects patient care because all of us are overworked and overwhelmed. Most of us don't even have time to use the bathroom or get a drink of water during our shifts.

Please continue to fund UConn health this year. It is crucial that we fix our staffing crisis so that staff do not burn out and we are able to hold our standards of care. It is necessary that we have the budget to hire and retain staff so that we are able to continue to do the great work that all of us do every day at UConn Health.

Thank you for your time.