



**Testimony of Carmen Lasalle, AFSCME Local 196  
Appropriations Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY 21 Budget Adjustments  
February 18, 2020**

Good evening. My name is Carmen Lasalle and I am proud to work as an Office Assistant working in Patient Access Registration at the UConn Health Center.

I am also the union steward for AFSCME Local 196. Our membership includes more than 250 dedicated clerical staff within the UConn Health Center.

I like to think of us as the administrative backbone of our great public hospital. Our work supports the University's research, clinical and educational objectives. We help make the UConn Health Center happen. We interact with everyone who touches this hospital, including patients and their families.

On behalf of fellow union members, I am submitting this testimony to urge you to maintain the grant funding necessary for UHC to continue fulfilling its vital public mission.

It's been upsetting to us to see state funding for UHC described as an "unsustainable subsidy." We are not a subsidy. We are an investment in the community's health and economic well-being.

UHC plays an important role in the community and has a positive economic impact on the state as a whole. UHC also serves some of Connecticut's most vulnerable residents, ensuring they receive quality care. We are worried about the impact on our community if a private corporation is allowed to take over a public institution.

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

Thank you.