

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the appropriations committee, my name is Shevonne Reneé White and I am a Surgical Technologist at UConn Health. I have been working as a tech in these operating rooms (OR) for 12 years.

I am here before you today to request that you continue to fund the UConn Health Center. This hospital provides quality patient care to the public. It is also important that we keep UConn a public hospital, because it is accountable to the people of Connecticut and is a great asset to our communities. The health center provides cutting-edge patient care supported by academic research, outstanding faculty, and award-winning safety ratings.

I came to UConn because I fell in love with the staff and the quality of care we provide to patients. My colleagues have become my friends and family. We work as a team to get the job done. While I was at school training to be a surgical tech, I completed a clinical rotation at UConn. After working in several hospitals across the region, I decided to continue my career at UConn because of the community it serves and builds within its walls. When poor, Medicaid patients are turned away from private hospitals because it is not “profitable” to care for them, we happily provide care for them at UConn Health.

On a daily basis, I complete many different tasks to keep the OR running. Every morning I am assigned to a surgical suite, where there are surgeries scheduled throughout the day. It is my job to ensure that we have the correct instruments and equipment prepared to the surgeon’s preferences for all of the procedures that day. OR Techs take care of all the details that are necessary in order for operations to be conducted smoothly and safely. I am extremely proud of the work that I do. Every day I feel like I am a part of changing someone’s life. For example, we had a patient with Hemi facial spasms, which means that every time her heart rate goes up her face twitches. The surgeons performed a craniotomy to alleviate that problem and now she lives a normal life. We do many of those types of procedures and I am proud to be a part of a team that helps people in that way.

Please continue to fund UConn Health Center this year and in the years to come. This hospital is an important asset worth protecting. Not only does UConn Health provide quality care for all residents of Connecticut, regardless of their economic standing, but

it is where the nurses, doctors, and surgical technicians of tomorrow are being developed. Thank you.