

Testimony of
Michael Baldwin M.D., Associate Professor Department of Radiology
Radiology Clerkship Director, and Associate Director, UConn Health Diagnostic Radiology Residency
Before the
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
March 4, 2021
RE: UCONN HEALTH BUDGET
In support of the Appropriations Budget and a two-year moratorium on privatization

My name is Michael Baldwin. I'm a proud graduate of the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Obviously, this makes me biased in favor of these fine educational institutions. However, it is also why I have chosen to back up my words today with action.

I currently practice clinically as a physician at UConn Health and I'm also a proud educator in the School of Medicine. In full disclosure, my wife Jennifer also practices as a physician at UConn Health. We met while in medical school at UConn and our marriage and children were an unforeseen (and the greatest) benefit of going to medical school in Farmington. We have chosen to dedicate our professional lives to insure we do our small part to make UConn Health successful and give back to the residents of Connecticut.

Our UConn Health colleagues served on the frontlines in the fight to care for critically ill patients here in our home state over the past year. We worked tirelessly on behalf of our fellow Connecticut residents and I will be forever proud of our efforts. We were true to our mission during those challenging days and months.

In our efforts to care for our patients and keep our caregivers safe, we fostered stronger bonds with our colleagues on the Storrs campus as well as with surrounding Connecticut communities and small businesses. We worked with our physics and engineering partners in Storrs as well as Connecticut small businesses to help make protective equipment for our front line workers. We hope to continue to strengthen these collaborative bonds between the Storrs and Farmington campuses in the future as they proved immediate beneficial over the past year.

My colleagues also kept teaching the future physicians and dentists of Connecticut during these challenging times. We successfully graduated the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine Classes of 2020 on time and I have no doubt that we were able to give them the tools they will need to be successful in their future careers.

I believe medical and scientific professionals are leaders that our communities, states, and country require in these unsure times. I believe there is no better investment our state can make than investing in the future medical and scientific professionals to care for us, keep us well informed with ongoing research, and safe.

I believe my professional colleagues warrant the consideration and respect of an earnest conversation about UConn Health's future. We are all invested in insuring UConn Health is successful in the future. We are all invested in helping to make changes that can make future success a reality for our institution.

We ask that the state institute a two-year moratorium on exploration of privatization of UConn Health. Like many of our fellow Connecticut health care institutions, businesses, and residents, we are still recovering from the economic stresses of the pandemic. I am confident that if we all work together we can insure UConn Health will be prepared for our next test.

My wife and I have benefited greatly by the investment the residents of Connecticut made in us. I believe were a smart investment. I believe we, along with our colleagues at UConn Health, are worth future investment by our fellow Connecticut residents. We will continue to work hard to reward that investment with high level health care for all our residents, scientific research, and future clinicians that will care for our wonderful state.

Thanks for your time.