

SEIU Local 511



**CONNECTICUT EMPLOYEES UNION INDEPENDENT**

PO Box 1268  
Middletown, CT 06457

**March 4, 2021**

**Appropriations Committee**

**Testimony by Carl Chisem, President**

**Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511**

**Subject Matter: Governor's Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget for Higher Education Agencies**

**H.B. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023**

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Carl Chisem and I am President of the Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511. We represent over 3,600 blue collar maintenance and service State workers who provide valuable services within our state facilities. They cook, clean, repair, maintain and deliver in Connecticut's State buildings, hospitals, college campuses, airports, roads, bridges, and parks. At UConn Health, over 200 of the workers are CEUI members.

I write in strong support of continued funding of Connecticut's only public academic medical center and urge your commitment to keep UCH in the public domain by placing a two-year moratorium on any privatization efforts. UConn Health is a high-performing asset for the State of Connecticut. It generates \$2.2 billion in overall impact to the state and contributes over 10,000 jobs to the state economy. UCH provides an affordable, top-rated education for CT citizens by training the state's future doctors, dentists, and scientists. Class sizes continue to grow, and the School of Medicine is in the top 10 medical schools in the nation for diversity of its student body as ranked by US News and World Report.

As the state's only public hospital, UCH provides cutting-edge patient care supported by academic research and outstanding faculty. Over 1 million patients visit annually, including thousands of underserved citizens. UConn physicians, dentists, residents, and medical and dental students provide thousands of hours of free healthcare to Connecticut's most medically vulnerable and instills in its health profession students the commitment to serve our state's most disadvantaged.

UConn Health is a valuable and important institution in our state. I urge the committee to protect this asset and ensure that it remains in the public domain. Your support of the two-year moratorium will provide the entire UConn Health community with the time needed to work collaboratively to settle contracts, recover from COVID-19 impacts on UCH, explore internal innovation and cost savings and develop a strategic plan for expansion of services.

Thank you.

---

**SEIU Local 511, AFL-CIO, CLC**

www.ceui.org • 860-344-0311 phone • 860-344-8648 fax

