



Testimony of  
**Bill Garrity, RN**

President University Health Professional, Local 3837, AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

Appropriations Committee  
March 4, 2021

House Bill 6439 AAC the State Budget for The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023  
Governor's Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget for Higher Education Agencies

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Bill Garrity and I am a Registered Nurse with more than 25 years' experience in bedside nursing. I was elected as President of University Health Professionals Local 3837 and am serving my third term in that capacity. I am also an AFT Connecticut Vice President and Divisional Vice President for Healthcare. As the UHP President I represent over 2800 members at UConn Health.

It is time for another budget, and I am back here again to ask you to not privatize my hospital. UCONN Health, is the only public hospital in the state of Connecticut. We treat everyone. Like every other institution we have had our difficulty through COVID-19 Pandemic and again the talks of privatization are looming. These "Health Care Heroes" do not feel like they are being treated that way right now. Labor Unions are working right now to try to come together to settle our upcoming contracts. Give us this time to work together by supporting a two-year moratorium on any discussion of privatization.

I've testified to this before, in a public-private partnership, the private part takes all the profit, and the public part will shoulder any loss. I'd ask you to look at what Texas is going through right now; Privatization of public services and deregulation is not the way to go. But I find it easier to ask you about large health care systems in our own state closing services. This is what I fear we will be facing.

Thank you all for the opportunity to testify before you today.