

Maitreyee Kale

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Dear Members of the Appropriation Committee,

My name is Maitreyee Kale and I am a first year medical student at the University of Connecticut, School of Medicine. Thank you for all the support you have given to UCONN School of Medicine and UConn Health over the years. I am writing to urge you to continue your generous support of this institution as it impacts not only the experiences of patients and providers, but also students like me.

Even though I am just a first year student, and one who began medical school in the middle of a pandemic no less, UCONN has given me many amazing experiences. As I applied to medical schools, I remember being daunted by one thing – anatomy lab. I thought working with the cadavers would be the biggest challenge I would have to face. Yet my first day in the lab was a completely different experience. Due to COVID, the first time we were able to go in person was 2 months in, so although I was a bit nervous, I was also excited! When I saw the dissected donor, I was amazed at the intricacy and function of the human body – I wasn't scared at all. All this was possible only due to the efforts of our professors who worked tirelessly to complete the dissections so that we could view the donor bodies safely in person. Adapting the curriculum to give students the opportunity to get the most of our education, despite being mostly virtual, required creativity and UCONN has really stepped up to the challenge.

In addition to adapting, UCONN has also fought hard to maintain the important pillars of our education such as attending our once a week clinic, known as CLIC. CLIC is my favorite part of the curriculum as it allows me to apply everything that I have been learning in the classroom to the care of real patients. Each and every patient that I have the opportunity to speak with teaches me something new and reminds me why I pursue medicine. Having the privilege of working with patients so early in my career is shaping the way I will practice medicine in the future; it is shaping me to be a better physician.

I am truly grateful for the opportunities UCONN has given me and cannot wait to learn more as I continue my education here. I hope that future students can also benefit from these enriching experiences, and for that I urge you to give as much support as possible to UCONN health. Your support ensures that this institution will continue shaping the future of healthcare in Connecticut in a positive way.