

Christopher T. Wiles, DO

Appropriations Testimony 2021

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Good morning. My name is Christopher Wiles. I am originally from New London, CT, and am currently a resident physician receiving my anesthesiology training through the University of Connecticut.

When COVID started, I was in the emergency department. We had the PPE we needed while other hospitals did not, and UCONN Health was prepared for countless possible scenarios thanks to the exemplary planning of those in charge, along with the resources necessary to put these plans into place and save lives. Triage protocols used outdoor tents for screening, and patients who ended up in the ICU were well cared for. I'm proud to be here today to represent UCONN Health, whose response to the COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies its commitment to both patient wellbeing and the wellbeing of our community at large.

UCONN Health treats its patients with empathy and respect, as do many excellent hospitals, but what sets it apart from others is how it has proven its commitment to both the employees and the community during difficult times. I'll briefly tell you how UCONN supported me personally recently. I have a unique skillset outside of medicine involving 3D design and 3D printing. UCONN supported my efforts to lead a group of volunteers in alternative PPE research and production for last resort scenarios. UCONN had a stockpile of 40,000 unusable n95s that our team found a way to reinforce and make usable thanks to a plastic face frame we created with a multidisciplinary team of volunteers, including those at UCONN Storrs. UCONN's ability to secure resources and think outside the box resulted in good care of patients and commendable safety of staff. It was impressive that so many people throughout the UCONN community were willing to assist us to make sure that we had adequate PPE.

I strongly urge you to continue providing the funding required to best serve Connecticut's patients, many of whom are underserved, as well as to serve our community and state, both during the pandemic and under normal circumstances.

UCONN had the resources to support its employees during the pandemic but needs continued funding to stay the premier institution that it is today. I'm incredibly proud to represent the University of Connecticut. Thank you.