



Testimony by Eric Fuchey on behalf of United Auto Workers Local 6950
and United Auto Workers Region 9A in favor of

HR 12 and SR 7: Resolutions Proposing Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, and all members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Eric Fuchey. I am a Postdoc in physics at the University of Connecticut and a member of the Graduate Employee and Postdocs Union (GEU-UAW Local 6950). My research has been focused on the preparation and installation of cutting-edge nuclear physics experiments at Jefferson Lab located in Newport News, VA. I am writing to testify in support of the legislature passing the Postdoc collective bargaining agreement. As UConn competes nationally and globally to attract the most talented and promising researchers, this agreement makes reasonable improvements to Postdoc pay, benefits and rights that represent an investment in UConn's ability to sustain its missions of accessibility, affordability, inclusiveness, and excellence.

Supporting Postdocs by passing this collective bargaining agreement is financially good for Connecticut. Postdoc research helps attract over \$286 million per year in grants and contracts from federal agencies like NASA, the Pentagon, NSF, and NIH, as well as from state, local and private sources. UConn generates \$11.80 into the state economy for every dollar spent, adding up to \$15.2 million in state and local tax revenue.

Also, Postdocs enhance UConn and Connecticut as national and international hubs of innovation. More than 150 Postdocs conduct a significant portion of day-to-day experimental work in STEM fields that drives the University's continually growing reputation in scientific innovation.

Members of UConn already see the value of supporting Postdocs. The contract has already been ratified by the Board of Trustees as well as an overwhelming number of Postdocs at the university.

The Postdoc contract ensures fair and more predictable pay increases that enhance UConn's ability to recruit the best and brightest and can be fiscally absorbed by external research grants. Personally, I had almost left my position one month after my hiring as a Postdoc for a job in the industry that I ended up not getting. I know many more Postdocs also look for more stable positions, and many leave their research early not to miss out on a better opportunity. A better pay would help retain a larger fraction of Postdocs who are already committed in their research.

This contract also promotes a more inclusive academic workforce: enhanced paid parental leave and stronger protections against sexual harassment and discrimination help address some of the major barriers to women entering the long-term academic workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EF', written over a horizontal line.

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