



United Community & Family Services

A Legacy of Caring since 1877

34 East Town Street
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Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Chuck Seeman and I am the President and CEO of United Community and Family Services, better known as UCFS. I am here in support of Raised Bill 497,,AA AUTHORIZING BOND FUNDS OF THE STATE FOR UNITED COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES IN NORWICH.

I am providing testimony today to not only ask for your help but to also make you aware of a solution.

The UCFS Health Center in Norwich has been providing accessible healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured people of eastern Connecticut for 9 years. Through our Federally Qualified Health Center Status, specifically look-alike status, we have found a way to provide quality care to the people of our community. We provide this quality care using a comprehensive model that includes primary care, dental care and behavioral health services.

UCFS is a solution; however, we are a lifeboat that has reached its capacity.

Our Norwich site is the medical home to more than 9,000 clients.

In just three years, annual visits to our Health Center have jumped 23%. This has resulted in appointment wait lists, some longer than 6 months, as is the case in our 9 chair dental practice. While we do make exceptions for emergency situations, we are unfortunately unable to reduce this long wait within our current facility. Quite simply, the community need has outgrown our current capacity to serve.

The bonding bill you are proposing is a lifeline for UCFS and the people for whom we care.

We are pairing your support with a capital campaign within our own community. This

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proposed expansion will provide 5 new medical treatment rooms, capable of adding 600 new patients and providing 1,800 additional primary care visits. It will add 2 new handicap accessible dental operatories, allowing us to see 1,600 new dental clients and provide 3,200 additional dental visits. It will also add 4 new behavioral health offices, allowing us to see 440 new behavioral health clients and provide 4,400 additional behavioral health visits. In addition, we will create efficiency through design and will improve our waiting and reception areas.

We know that the coming months are going to be tough for many in our state, and we are preparing ourselves to meet the most basic needs of our service area for its long term benefit.

As you search for ways to manage the growing number of uninsured and underinsured people of our state, look to the UCFS Health Center. An investment in the established resources and infrastructure of UCFS will be a successful solution.

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