

TESTIMONY TO HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE REGARDING HB06292

February 10, 2009

Messr's Chairmen and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

As a member of the University Of Connecticut Board Of Trustees and the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association Board I bring a unique testimony on the topic of retaining funding for veterinary school seats.

There is a shortage of veterinarians nationally and Connecticut residents that want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine are at a great disadvantage when it comes to applying and being accepted into professional school.

Because of severe financial constraints in the state, the Board of Trustees voted against building a school of veterinary medicine a few years ago. We recognized the serious need in the state and the Board asked the UConn administration to look into securing veterinary seats at established veterinary schools for Connecticut residents.

We have started a successful program in Iowa and need to maintain our commitment to the students that have begun their matriculation as well as those that need to follow.

Becoming a veterinarian should be more than a dream for some Connecticut residents. It should be the reality for your hard working, intelligent constituents that desire a career in animal medicine.

Thank you

Andrea B. Dennis-LaVigne, DVM