

Testimony  
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
March 5, 2009

**HB 6335 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
HEALTH CENTER FACILITIES PLAN**

Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Corey Gittleman, I am a fourth year medical student at the Uconn School of Medicine . I am here today to speak in **support of HB 6335 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER FACILITIES PLAN**

I hope to provide you with a student's perspective on investing in Connecticut's future physicians. I was born and raised in Connecticut and plan on pursuing a career in Family Medicine in the state. As a medical student who has chosen to enter the field of primary care, I understand the importance of attracting prospective medical students to Uconn. When looking into medical schools, applicants want to be assured that they will get a quality education. When I applied to medical school there was nothing more important than the quality of the faculty. In my experience, the faculty here at Uconn have been extremely knowledgeable and dedicated to the students. In addition, the close proximity of the hospital with the teaching and research facilities has allowed the faculty to be easily accessible. Whether seeking help on a conference or advice on my future career, the faculty are always close by. A new hospital that maintains it's proximity to the medical school will help to recruit and retain the same quality of faculty I have come to expect.

In addition to recruiting potential physicians, it is also important to encourage medical students and residents to remain in the state. One reason I have chosen the field of Family Medicine is a commitment to serving the community and a dedication to providing quality healthcare. As a state, I feel we are obligated to do the same. Having updated facilities and maintaining the quality of medical education at the Health Center will help better serve the healthcare needs of the surrounding community. In addition, this will also show current medical students and residents in the state that Connecticut is serious in its commitment to provide excellent health care. Personally, I think this will encourage future physicians to make their home in Connecticut.

As a medical student and future primary care physician in Connecticut, I ask that you continue to invest and support the Uconn Health Center. We cannot let the quality of our state medical school diminish. Not only will we loose out on potential physicians, we will also be doing a disservice to the state. A larger academic hospital with up to date medical facilities will make the medical school more competitive and ensure it is able to train the physicians Connecticut will need in the future.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today and for your support of the UConn Health Center. I ask that you continue Connecticut's dedication to medical education by supporting HB 6335.