



# University of Connecticut Health Center

## TESTIMONY

Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 8, 2010

### **HB 5404, An Act Concerning the Nondisclosure of Certain Information regarding Department of Correction Employees to Inmates under the Freedom of Information Act.**

My name is Gail Johnson, Director of Administrative Services for the Correctional Managed Health Care program for the University of Connecticut Health Center. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 5404, An Act Concerning the Nondisclosure of Certain Information regarding Department of Correction Employees to Inmates under the Freedom of Information Act.**

The University of Connecticut Health Center, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Correction, provides all health services, including medical, mental health, pharmacy and dental, to inmates housed in seventeen DOC facilities statewide and at 38 halfway houses and at the John Dempsey Hospital. As of June 2009 direct services were provided by approximately 800 employees to a population of 19,657. The majority of staff is located in the correctional facilities to provide direct care. They provide comprehensive services from admission to discharge. These services include intake and suicide assessments, specialty and chronic care clinics, laboratory, radiology and dental visits. There are over 200,000 visits to Correctional Managed Health Care social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists per year. In addition, Correctional Managed Health Care employees see approximately 600 inmates at sick call on an average day and daily care for 189 inmates in facility based infirmary beds. On average approximately 8 inmates are housed on a daily basis at the John Dempsey Hospital.

Given the direct care provided to inmates by University of Connecticut Health Center and Correctional Managed Health Care employees, we would request these employees be covered by the same nondisclosure provision proposed for the Department of Correction employees in this legislation and ask that the bill be amended to include our staff. We are aware that a similar bill was recently voted out of the Judiciary Committee, SB 221, we have also requested to be included in that bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of this bill and the inclusion of University of Connecticut Health Center employees who work directly with the inmate population.