

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE***

March 15, 2010

***HB 5027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH
CENTER'S FACILITIES PLAN.***

Senator Handley, Representative Willis, members of the Higher Education Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of HB 5027 An Act Concerning the University of Connecticut Health Center's Facilities Plan.

My family physician Dr. Jon Krumeich referred me to Dr. Bruce Liang at the UCONN Medical center for an evaluation of my cardiac function. Dr. Liang and several of the physicians in the Cardiology Department discovered that my Aortic valve was badly diseased and impaired; this impairment caused a large aortic aneurysm. Based on this information and the compassionate concern of Dr. Liang and Dr. Paul Priessler I decided to have these life threatening impairments repaired. On September 14, 2005 my aortic valve was replaced and I received a new Aorta. This operation not only saved my life but has allowed me to extend my life with quality and dignity. This would not have been possible if the UCONN Medical center was not the valuable resource that was available to

me. The quality of care and the heroic efforts that the staff makes speaks for itself, however the need to provide adequate space and equipment with a new facility should be carefully considered. Even though my care was of the highest quality I can note for you that my room was jammed with necessary life support equipment and there was another patient in the room with similar equipment and things were tight. It was difficult for staff and family to move freely in the room.

I am a retired healthcare worker and have had the opportunity to work at the national and international level, but I address you today as a grateful patient with a humble and thankful heart that the entire staff at the UCONN Medical center was available to care for me, my family and friends. Let me urge this committee to look not only at the physical, and economical benefits of a new facility but to also view how great this new facility will be when blended with the already powerful spirit of medical knowledge, compassion, care, and willingness to share and apply this effort and attitude in continuing to build the finest medical complex in the region while deepening the quality of life for the citizens of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all on this matter.

I urge your support of HB 5027.