

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF  
CHRISTOPHER DADLEZ  
BEFORE THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT  
COMMITTEE  
HB 5027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
HEALTH CENTER A FACILITIES PLAN**

Good Morning. My name is Christopher Dadlez and I am the President and CEO of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

I am here to testify in support of the UConn Health Network and the facilities initiative for the University of Connecticut School of Medicine recently unveiled by Governor Rell and President Hogan.

Saint Francis is a 617 bed acute tertiary teaching hospital that has been providing medical care to the residents of this community for over 112 years. We offer a wide range of health care services. Some of our most notable programs include the Hoffman Heart Institute, The Connecticut Joint Replacement Center, the Saint Francis /Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center and the Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital.

We have been an active supporter of the UConn School of Medicine for over 35 years and have been working hard over the last 22 months to help shape a plan to create a world class academic medical center with the University of Connecticut.

We support the current proposal for the following reasons:

- The UConn Health Network seeks to form a true partnership between the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and the hospitals in the Greater Hartford region.
- John Dempsey Hospital remains a public, state sponsored institution and receives the necessary renovations to ensure it remains a viable twenty-first century health care facility.
- The regional pediatric health care system we have developed in the Greater Hartford region is further strengthened through the transfer of the NICU Program at John Dempsey to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center;
- Research activities will be enhanced through the operation of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and the formation of bioscience enterprise zones to encourage investment by private companies in new technology in association with UCONN Health Network Partners and;
- This proposal creates a new program initiative through partnership with members of the UCONN Health Network such as the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation, a new simulation center and a health disparities institute.

Saint Francis is particularly excited about plans for the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation. We have been working with the University for some time to develop this concept.

As currently envisioned the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation will be based at Saint Francis. This Institute will focus on:

- The creation of new models for training primary care physicians and retaining them in Connecticut to meet our state's growing need for more health care services;
- and
- Operation of a wide variety of recertification courses for existing primary care physicians, as well as supporting research initiatives aimed at evaluating new models of primary care delivery and transitions of care within the continuum health care services available to patients in this area;

In summary, the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation will help the University of Connecticut, School of Medicine and the UConn Health Network partners address critical health care needs and position our state as a model for contemporary primary care.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts on this exciting endeavor.