

**Testimony of Dr. Gerard Burrow, M.D.
Chair, UConn Health Center Board of Directors**

**Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee
March 15, 2010**

Good morning and thank you, Co-Chairs Handley and Willis.

My name is Jerry Burrow and I chair the University of Connecticut's Health Center's Board of Directors. I have served in this capacity for approximately four years. I am Dean Emeritus of Yale's School of Medicine and a current board member and former CEO of the Sea Research Foundation and Mystic Aquarium.

It is a privilege to join my colleagues from the University's Board of Trustees and Directors to discuss the proposal Governor Rell unveiled last week to preserve and protect the financial health of the UConn Health Center and create an innovative, regional health care network. The Health Center's Board of Directors is expected to meet later this week, in conjunction with the University's Board of Trustees, to formally consider the proposal.

The Governor's proposal outlines a pathway forward that would allow the UConn Health Center to achieve its long-held goal of financial health, by modestly increasing its number of medical-surgical beds, and adding and renovating patient-care areas to accommodate larger teaching areas, modern medical equipment needs and patient privacy. And I am sure you will agree that our schools of medicine and dental medicine are not only a great source of pride for our state today – but are critical to our health in the future.

This proposal also seeks to streamline regional care for babies born prematurely or with special health care needs. Specifically, this means the NICU will remain at UConn Health Center – where neonatology was born in northern Connecticut – but all services will be managed by Connecticut Children's. The physicians and staff will remain Health Center employees.

This part of the plan carries both important cost and care benefits. It will reduce costs by consolidating services and will lead to improvements in the planning and delivery of these complex medical and surgical services. This move will also allow the Health Center to increase its adult medical-surgical bed count – which is an important move to achieve financial health.

My colleague Mr. Cloud, will outline the other important elements of the plan designed to establish the UConn Health Network and Connecticut Bioscience Initiative. We look forward to discussing all of these initiatives with you today and in the days ahead.