



Testimony of Jean Morningstar, President
University Health Professionals, AFT Local 3837

Appropriations Committee
February 21, 2012

H.B. No. 5014 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013.

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this evening regarding the proposed adjustments to the UCONN Health Center's FY13 budget. I am Jean Morningstar, President of University Health Professionals (UHP), AFT Local 3837 and am here on behalf of the 2500 members of UHP that are the professional non-faculty employees of the University of CT Health Center.

As you know we are state employees that are members of SEBAC. We have given many concessions to this Governor and the one before him. In the meantime, we have tirelessly worked with the Health Center in partnership to advance Bioscience CT. It is impossible to ask employees to sacrifice more. There just is not anymore to give. Our clinical staff is at the bare bones and administrators and researchers are working many many long hours to make sure their research continues to get funded. I don't represent the students or faculty but they are certainly giving their fair share too. All of us share a common goal of wanting our only Public Academic Health Center to not only succeed but to be the best. Our future depends upon this. We, the state of CT, need to continue to be an essential provider of vital health services and the source of physicians and dentists. I know everyone in this room is proud of their contribution to this effort.

With the recent Bioscience Connecticut and Jackson Labs initiative we are on the cusp of greatness. But, greatness and success is not free. In order to maintain our education, research, and clinical care at the levels we need and frankly deserve we cannot and should not nickel and dime these efforts. The ability of the Health Center to move forward and proceed with the infrastructure needed is dependent on the continued support of the state. We need to recruit new scientists and we need space for them.

The proposed FY13 appropriation is a serious roadblock and will prevent us from moving forward. There can be no layoffs and raising tuition is not an option. I appreciate the funding of the fringe benefit differential and your help in that effort is noted. But, to cut our budget and ask us to continue to go forward in our ambitious, but wise, expansion seems to be setting us up for failure. The University and the Health Center are not factories and should not be managed as if they were. The University is not in the business of making a profit. The University exists to educate, to research, and to provide health care. We do all very well. We are good but we have the potential to be great. Please reconsider and fund us so we can succeed.

Thank you for listening and thank you for your consideration.