

Appropriations Committee Testimony
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**H.B. No. 5016 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.**

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner and members of the Appropriations Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding H.B. No. 5016 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

As a world-class institution, we are now ranked 19th among public research universities by *U.S. News and World Report*, which continues UConn's movement into the top echelons of public research universities. We continually strive to improve the lives of students, provide access to quality healthcare and enhance the economic and social well-being of the state and our citizens.

My testimony will be limited to Sections 9-13 of the bill. As part of the Administration's larger effort to reduce the number of state agencies, HB 5016, sections 9-13 include the consolidation of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) currently housed in a building owned and operated by the Department of Public Works that is located on the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington, with the University of Connecticut. It is our understanding that the Health Center will be expected to handle OCME's administrative functions. We have not yet had an opportunity to speak with the OCME regarding the proposed consolidation.

Because the OCME is located on the Health Center campus, there are already several areas where the Health Center and OCME collaborate. Our public safety department, both police and fire, respond to public safety emergencies on the site. Also, the Health Center's Information Technology Department provides the office with telecommunications, email, internet and other support. The fee to provide the IT service is \$3,000 per month. The OCME maintains its own Active Directory structure, their own servers and desktops/laptops. In addition, the UCHC provides Employee Assistance Program Services to the OCME. The fee to provide said services is approximately \$1500 per year.

As some have commented, a consolidation may provide for additional academic and clinical training experiences for medical and dental students and possibly fellows and residents. How these might be organized and accredited requires further exploration. We also understand concerns have been raised regarding the potential for conflicts of interest should a consolidated OCME be called upon to investigate matters related to the University. This issue needs to be given due consideration as this proposal moves forward.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing support of the University of Connecticut.