

(FTR)

State Representative Brian Becker
Legislative Office Building, Room 4009
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

February 22, 2013

Dear Representative Becker:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding appropriations for Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Connecticut Children's Medical Center plays a truly critical role in the state and to me as a citizen of the state. Let me describe three aspects that make it so critical.

First, CT Children's provides top-notch, safety-net care for children with Medicaid and HUSKY – care that other places do not have the specialization to support, care that needs to happen somewhere. Society is only as strong as it takes care of its weakest members – members who without proper care become a burden.

Second, CT Children's offers important specialty care for children in our state. CT Children's has the best specialists in cancer, diabetes, neurosurgery, trauma, intensive care, orthopedics and many other specialties. Our children need these critical pediatricians and surgeons. I worry every day that some accident or disease will befall my children who are 6 and 8 years old. I need to know that I do not have to take them far away to Boston or New York for their care. We need the best care for children here in Connecticut. I need to know that I live in a state where if we have a car accident near home that my children will get real pediatric trauma care right away. I need to know that they can quickly get the best care for cancer. Without a great Children's Hospital, Connecticut cannot recruit the best pediatricians and surgeons for our children.

Third, a freestanding, academic medical center for pediatric care like CT Children's makes jobs for everyone. Additionally it recruits highly educated people to the state – people who pay taxes, send their children to public schools, use the public library, and generally enhance the reputation and wellbeing of the state. I have lived most of my life in Connecticut; I grew up in Fairfield County, lived for 12 years in New Haven County and now live in Farmington. I want Connecticut to be the best.

CT Children's is dedicated to providing the highest quality care for children and to making the children of Connecticut the healthiest in the country. Please help us to make that happen.

Thank you very much,



Andrea Benin, MD
SVP Quality and Patient Safety, CT Children's Medical Center

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