

February 9, 2016

Good Evening,

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Karen Steinberg Gallucci, an Assistant Professor of psychiatry in the UConn School of Medicine. I am a resident of Southington.

I truly appreciate all of the support you have generously provided for UConn Health over the years. This support has made it possible for UConn Health to become a great university, teaching hospital, and research center that offers myriad benefits to UConn students and the state as a whole.

There can be no doubt that you are contending with significant challenges in needing to reduce the state budget, and are being faced with difficult choices as you navigate along this path. I am here today to add my perspective and ask you to reconsider the proposed cuts to UConn Health. The recently release budget plan included severe reductions in funding to UConn Health. I strongly believe that, if these plans come to pass, there will be a deleterious impact on both the daily operations and the overall mission of UConn Health.

I serve in a number of roles in my position at this institution. I teach within the Medical School and Psychiatry Residency programs. I provide psychotherapy for patients suffering from sometimes debilitating mental illness. I also direct several programs (Nurturing Families Network, Mind over Mood) that assist new families with meeting the social and emotional needs of their young children. These programs are critical because they have the potential for altering negative life course trajectories and transforming lives. I also work on a project (CT SBIRT) that aims to intervene early with high risk alcohol and substance users. Finally, I conduct research on psychotherapy development and child attachment. I feel very fortunate to be able to work in an environment that supports my varied clinical, teaching, and research interests and allows me the opportunity to build a meaningful career. I am honored to work at UConn Health and know that my efforts make real and positive differences in people's lives.

I think UConn Health is a very special place, and offers many benefits to our state. From its excellent clinical care and patient services, to its outstanding educational and research programs, UConn Health is a very good investment in our future. I urge you to contemplate the long-term costs that may ensue with the proposed budget cuts to UConn Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts and I hope you will consider them carefully as you continue in your important work. Please work to restore these budget reductions to UConn Health so that it can carry on with its important mission.

Sincerely,

Karen Steinberg Gallucci

