

Good Evening Co-Charis, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee,

My name is Sydney Hofer and I am a second year student at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. I first want to start by thanking you for allowing me to speak to you today and for your continued support of the University of Connecticut Health Center. Through programs such as Bioscience Connecticut, as well as other investments, you have allowed students, professors, researchers, and clinicians to make a difference in our state and our country.

The challenge of reducing the state budget deficit is a daunting task to say the least and I understand that cuts will need to be made. I am here today to urge you to minimize the cuts to UConn Health because the future of our state depends on its continued success.

I am proud to be a student at the UConn School of Dental Medicine. A large part of my decision to attend UConn Dental was the prestige and quality of education provided by the School of Dental Medicine. I enjoy the unique opportunity to collaborate with my colleagues in the School of Medicine and the privilege of the extensive Basic Medical Science background we receive. Within this academic year, the School of Dental medicine received a perfect score on accreditation for all pre-doctoral and post-doctoral programs. Additionally, the Dental School was the recipient of the prestigious William J. Gies Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Academic Dental Institution highlighting the accomplishments of the Skeletal Biology and Regeneration Program. These accomplishments are just the most recent of a legacy of excellence of the School of Dental Medicine, thanks to the continued support of the Connecticut tax payers and legislators. The Dental School takes pride in educating and training the best dentists who will then be able to serve the people of Connecticut in their careers.

I truly believe that drastically cutting the budget of UConn Health, as it is currently proposed, will diminish the quality our education and prevent our institution from being on the forefront of dental and medical innovation. This will prevent UConn from attracting the best and brightest researchers, clinicians, and students who make our community outstanding.

I ask you to review the state budget again and do anything you can to minimize the cuts to UConn Health. Without proper funding, the Schools of Dental Medicine and Medicine will not be able to properly educate its students, putting the future health of the citizens of Connecticut in jeopardy. You have the power to impact and save countless lives by continuing your support of UConn Health.

Thank you for your time,

Sydney Hofer  
DMD Candidate, Class of 2018  
University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine