

Testimony of Andrew Glick
2nd Year Medical Student, UConn School of Medicine

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Good Evening,

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Appropriations Committee members, my name is Andrew Glick and I'm a 2nd year medical student at UConn School of Medicine. I am aware of the insurmountable task you all face having to cut millions of dollars from the state budget, but I thank you for being so generous to UConn Health and School of Medicine, and I urge you to please minimize the cuts to us in our time of need. In the end, it's about ensuring patients are healthy, but a lot has to be done to make this happen, especially ensuring continuity for our world-class training here at UConn School of Medicine. I am testifying to ensure that I and generations of physicians to come will become well trained, compassionate physicians.

My story of how I got to medical school is a bit different compared to most of my other classmates. As a senior at Darien High School in Darien, CT, I was accepted to UConn School of Medicine as part of the school's "Special Program in Medicine," where I was guaranteed a seat in medical school as long as my academic performance was strong in college. This wonderful program allowed me to reduce the red-tape associated with applying to medical schools while in college and thus gave me the opportunity to explore my passion: healthcare management and policy. This chance to explore has benefited me and other future physicians across the country, as I use this background as a member of the Committee on Economics and Quality in Medicine, a nationwide committee of the American Medical Association's student section tasked with educating medical students on how we can make healthcare affordable and safe for our country. Again, this was only possible because of the wonderful program at the UConn School of Medicine.

Another great opportunity I received from the School of Medicine, was a summer research grant during the summer after my first year of medical school where I studied the costs and methods of delivering care to poor and disadvantaged children in Cape Town, South Africa who suffered some of the largest and deadliest burns. I appreciated this as I was able to explore my academic interests, but also continue my appreciation for providing care to the underserved. This is instilled in all of us at the medical school as we are required to complete community service—which is mostly completed by our student run clinics.

I was also drawn to UConn School of Medicine because of its incredible academic track record, in large part thanks to all your support in the budget and in other effective investments, such as Bioscience CT. And yes, I was also drawn to UConn School of Medicine because of its costs—which are a great deal for in-state students at public medical schools. I know that our school places limits to the cost of attendance to make school affordable and attractive to students; if the school receives more cuts, we won't be able to sustain this. (And to put everything in perspective, I am paying around \$60,000 for total cost of attendance per year as opposed to around at least \$80,000 per year if I attended a private medical school).

It is important to invest in our *only* public medical school because of the impending physician shortage and the better return on investment that public medical school education in Connecticut provides compared to other states. When I heard about the large budget cuts, I looked more into the benefits of supporting public medical education in our state. The data I am presenting below is from the 2015 Association of American Medical College's (AAMC) State Physician Workforce Book.

Connecticut, compared to other states, is fortunate to have a favorable amount of physicians in proportion to the rest of our population. However, this will not be maintained because close to 1/3 of all active physicians in the state are older than 60 years old. There are only twelve other states that have a greater percentage of their physicians older than 60 years old. ***This means that we will need more doctors sooner than other states.***

Now we should look at the return on our investment of our only state medical school. Out of all medical students in the state of Connecticut, only 19.1% of graduates will become practicing physicians in the Connecticut. When we look at only *public* medical school graduates in Connecticut, we see that the percentage jumps to 32.0%. Additionally, this difference is ranked 6th largest out of the 24 states with both public and private medical schools. The takeaway:

- This is a substantial difference—a 67%% increase
- Compared to other states, our public medical education (i.e. UConn School of Medicine) is doing the right things to attract our graduates to stay in-state compared to the private medical school graduates of the state. Thus, maintaining an investment (via our state budget) in the UConn School of Medicine is imperative so that there are more doctors in Connecticut to see patients. And from an economic point of view, according to IMS Health's "National Economic Impact of Physicians" report, for every one doctor in Connecticut 9.9 other jobs will be created.

Given the above, we need to increase the number of medical students we train at UConn School of Medicine because Connecticut ranks 37th out of 41 states in terms of student enrollment at *public* medical schools per 100,000 population. Ideally we need even more financial support to increase enrollment in UConn School of Medicine so that we can begin to address the impending physician shortage due to the aging physician population in our state.

I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities the School of Medicine has provided me which is because of your continued support of the school, so thank you very much for your support. If you find any way to prevent our budget cuts, I, current students, future medical trainees of the state, and most importantly the Connecticut residents we treat would be extremely thankful for your actions.

Warmest regards,
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