

**Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing February 10, 2016**

**Testimony of Jonathan Lis
UConn School of Medicine, 2nd Year Student**

Re: UConn Health Budget

Good Afternoon,

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the chance to be heard and to speak with you today. My name is Jonathan Lis, and I'm a second year medical student at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

I aim to tell a story, my story, about my ties to the state of CT and my passion for my home. I genuinely believe we all have the state's best interest in mind, and therefore I would like to convey the great value of UConn Health, and explore the wise logic of minimizing cuts to this institution even in the face of great economic stress.

I am a true Connecticut man. I was born and raised in West Hartford, I stayed in CT for college, attending Wesleyan University, and I currently study medicine at UConn. I am a former employee and current board member of the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation (a partnership between St. Francis and UConn that aims to transform primary care in ways that are palpable and sustainable), and a direct product of the Bioscience CT initiative. I am also a member of the Urban Service Track, a program of the CT AHEC program at UConn Health that takes an interdisciplinary approach to providing for the state's underserved citizens. Clearly, my roots are deep in this state, and I plan to stay here to practice medicine and give back to the community that offered me so much.

In deciding between medical schools, I was struck by how easily I could envision my future with UConn Health and the state of CT. Thanks to the support of state legislators and this committee, when I visited the campus I was energized seeing the progress and transformation all around me. UConn Health is on the correct path towards a blend of cutting-edge science, innovative patient care, and unparalleled medical education that will ultimately benefit our patients, providers, and citizens alike. The great support the

state has pledged to UConn Health through such initiatives as Bioscience CT, UConn 21st Century, and general investments in the schools makes me excited to be a part of Connecticut's future as a physician, and is the reason I chose to attend UConn School of Medicine in the first place.

Yet this excitement is falling. Hearing the potential for massive budget cuts to higher education and healthcare is, quite honestly, concerning to me and my fellow classmates. What does this mean to our future in the state and our desire to practice medicine in this state? If we are to increase the number of graduates who ultimately practice in our state, we need to prove that our providers, young and old, and our patients, are worth fighting for. If we want to excite our trainees and empower them to remain in Connecticut, we need to maintain, not relinquish, support. If we want to maintain progress in medical research, patient care, job creation, and public health, we need to minimize budget cuts to UConn Health.

I ask you to reconsider the proposed budget cuts – for my future, for the future of UConn Health, and most importantly for the future of our state. Thank you again for the opportunity to be here, and I welcome any questions you may have.