

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Appropriations Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

To the Chairperson and members of the Committee,

I have been a faculty member for 20 years at UCONN Health and if you include medical school and residency, it's been 30 years. I have watched UCONN Health transform over the past 2 years with the Bioscience initiative like never before. The campus, inclusive of Jackson Lab, will put UCONN Health on the map in Connecticut for being a state of the art health center, research institution, educational powerhouse for the next generation, and a premier clinical engine. The state has always invested in UCONN Health and to risk the ongoing investment at a time when we just had a "facelift" with new buildings would result in such a devastating loss in momentum for my professional home. As a leader in education for UCONN Health, we need to give our future medical students, dental students, and residents and fellows a reason to stay in Connecticut to practice. We are losing our graduates to other states, and the Connecticut workforce of physicians is at risk. Please continue to invest in our states health industry by not cutting resources that could jeopardize our message of growth and stability. We need to take care of all the citizens of Connecticut and use this premier Health Center for its intended purpose. I know these are financially hard times, but without the foresight to grow the inside of UCONN Health as much as the outside we risk so much for the citizens of Connecticut and for the states only health care facility. We are worth it!

Sincerely,

Kiki Nissen

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Graduate Medical Education

Professor of Medicine

Department of Medicine

UCONN Health