



Testimony of
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Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
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Good Afternoon Senator Haskell, Senator Hwang, Representative Haddad, Representative Hall and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to speak today on What I would say is multiple intertwined bills

H.B. No. 7120 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS OR CAMPUSES WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SB 749 AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

HB 7118 (RAISED) AN ACT FUNDING THE UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITY PORTION OF THE FRINGE BENEFIT COST FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CONSTITUENT UNITS OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

My name is Bill Garrity and I am a Registered Nurse of 29 years, with 23 years invested in state service. I am the President of University Health Professionals AFT Local 3837, representing 2750 members, in education, research and healthcare.

I've had the opportunity to speak multiple times on this issue with Management at the UCONN Health, with my membership and the members of the UCONN Health Labor coalition. At UCONN Health this is dressed up nicely as a Public Private Partnership. Where it is being touted as a good thing. But when we press and ask for an example of where this type of partnership is working, were not given one single example. We've had and have similar partnerships at the UCONN Health right now and in the past, they've not worked well. We've opened our doors and had what was the Farmington Surgery Center, it started as an outside entity, we've had to absorb it and now it is the UCONN Health Surgery Center

We have our agreement with CCMC that runs our NICU, they rent the space, they rent our nurses, they manage, they set staffing levels. Because they control staffing and beds we actually can be harmed because we need to turn expectant mothers away, because they don't have the staff. This event happened. Or the plan to separate two newborn twins. Mother and 1 baby at UCONN and the other newborn at a different hospital. This was suggested. Can you see why we might feel we are being sabotaged. When you don't have room for your own mother's babies how difficult is it to grow your own pre-natal and Labor and Delivery programs.

Or when we gave up pediatrics and got the DOC agreement in return. Many of you know how well that worked. Every time something happened to an inmate in DOC facility it made it to the news and when it did, all I ever saw was a picture of our state hospital in the newspaper or on TV. Doesn't matter the patient never made it to us we got the bad press and the black eye.

UCONN Health has three distinct aspects to its mission. Education, Research, and Clinical. I would ask for your help to make sure you do not carve up part of the state's flagship university. Do not destroy the only public hospital in the state. We treat many underserved patients, we treat people with conditions that are not profitable.

In the past 8 years we have invested in the UCONN Health Center, built new State of the art Buildings, Hired top of their field staff. Seen more patients both inpatient and outpatient, WE are growing. Please do not let UCONN get carved up and sold off.

I would like to again thank you for your time

Bill Garrity RN
UHP President
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