



Testimony of
Bill Garrity, RN

President University Health Professional, Local 3837, AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

UCONN Health Board of Directors
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Good Morning, to all the member of the board. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Bill Garrity and I am a Registered Nurse of 29 years, with 23 years invested in state service here at UCONN Health. I am the President of University Health Professionals AFT representing 2750 members, in education, research and healthcare, And I am one of UHP's representatives on the UCONN Health Labor Coalition.

I've had the opportunity to speak multiple times on the issue of privatization with Legislators at the capital. 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.

There are other examples, but my time is short, I've been in Hartford to Lobby for the Fringe rate to be moved to the comptroller's office. But in conversations with Dr. Agwunobi, He makes it seem, if we can get the fringe off our back, we would be more marketable and easier to sell off. That makes it real tough to think were on the same side fighting the same fight.

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, and ask if you have any questions.

Bill Garrity RN
UHP President
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