



Testimony in Support of S.B. 367, An Act Concerning a Study to Maximize Medicaid Reimbursement for UConn Health Center

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Human Services Committee
March 12, 2024

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Jillian, Senator Seminara, Representative Case, and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee,

Thank you for accepting this testimony regarding **S.B. 367, An Act Concerning a Study to Maximize Medicaid Reimbursement for UConn Health Center**, on behalf of Health Equity Solutions (HES), a nonprofit organization with a statewide focus on advancing health equity through anti-racist policies and practices. Our vision is for every Connecticut resident to attain optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. **We respectfully urge the Human Services Committee to support S.B. 367.**

UConn's John Dempsey Hospital is Connecticut's only public hospital, serving over 1.3 million patient visits annually, with nearly 1 in 4 patient visits [provided](#) to Medicaid recipients. UConn Health is the single largest provider of dental services to patients enrolled in Medicaid, and for under- and uninsured people in the state. The Health Center also provides thousands of hours of [volunteer service](#) two communities across the state.

Over the last several years, UConn Health Center has faced [budget deficiencies](#). Identifying improved [Medicaid reimbursements](#) is essential to ensure UConn Health Center can continue to provide the services they offer, especially for patients enrolled in Medicaid from across the state, and for its long-term sustainability. Ongoing budget deficits have threatened the privatization of the UConn Health Center. The [privatization](#) of public hospitals impacts patients enrolled in Medicaid the most and leads to reduced access to services.

Maximizing Medicaid reimbursements can address some of the critical budget deficiencies, contribute to the quality of care by investing in resources, staffing, equipment, and expand their range of services to meet community needs, all while incentivizing improved access to care to essential services for individuals and families who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare needs. This can lead to better health outcomes, patient satisfaction, and improved financial state for UConn's Health Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support for S.B. 367. We can be reached with any questions at kvilleda@hesct.org.