



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 8:52 p.m.

Dear Colleagues,

I'm pleased to share with you the good news that the State Senate has passed legislation to support the construction of a new patient bed tower at the UConn Health Center and renovation of current facilities at the John Dempsey Hospital. Last Saturday, the same legislation was passed by the House of Representatives. This is a historic moment in the life of our Health Center and the University of Connecticut.

This is the happy outcome of many years of hard work on the part of UConn's administration and Board of Trustees. When I was appointed as UConn's president almost 3 years ago, putting our John Dempsey Hospital on firm financial footing was one of the biggest challenges our Board of Trustees asked me to address.

Throughout the past three years, we've been working closely with the CEOs of regional hospitals affiliated with our School of Medicine to develop collaborative strategies to address the chronic fiscal challenges at the Dempsey Hospital, while improving access to the state-of-the-art academic medicine that UConn offers. The legislation approved today is the proud outcome of these efforts. We're very appreciative of the collegiality and support we've had along the way from the leadership of our regional affiliated hospitals, not to mention the support and assistance of our Board of Trustees and Health Center Board of Directors. Through this teamwork, we are now in a strong position to secure the future of the UConn School of Medicine and improve access to world-class healthcare in the Greater Hartford Region.

We're also grateful to the Governor and the bi-partisan leadership in the General Assembly that supported the proposal the Governor announced in February at our Health Center. (Please see the Governor's statement following my sign off.) The legislation provides \$207M in additional UCONN 2000 funds for the construction of the bed tower and renovations of current hospital facilities, as well as \$30M to support a variety of collaborative initiatives throughout the region. The initiatives include a shared Simulation Center at Hartford Hospital, an Institute for Primary Care at St. Francis Hospital, a Health Disparities Institute, support to seek national designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Network, an Institute for Nursing Excellence, and support for the Connecticut Institute for Clinical & Translational Science.

Our Board has already approved the proposal and was instrumental in helping us garner legislative support in the last few months as the bill moved through the House and then the Senate. It has truly been a team effort.

We still have work ahead, including applying for \$100M in funding from federal or other sources. We assure you that we're prepared for that and are already working on our submission.

In closing, I also thank all of you at the Health Center as well as our Storrs and regional campuses. It's taken a great deal of time and effort to come to this point and your support has been critical to getting us here.

This very positive result for the UConn Health Center is a positive result for the entire University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Hogan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Hogan  
President  
UConn



**Statement of Governor M. Jodi Rell on passage of UConn Health Center bill:**

Tonight's vote represents a critical leap forward not just for a state-of-the-art John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington but for a health network with incredible reach throughout Connecticut and thousands of new jobs that will be associated with the network and the hospital.

We are taking steps to put UConn's schools of medicine and dentistry into the top tier of academics and research. We are moving to increase classroom and lab space for those students and offset the shortages we expect in those essential professions. And we are setting the stage for enormous improvements in the health care we provide and tremendous growth in the number of people that industry employs.