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Testimony of J. Kevin Kinsella, Vice President of Hartford Hospital

Joint Committee on Human Services

February 21, 2007

My name is J. Kevin Kinsella, Vice President of Hartford Hospital and I am here today to testify in favor of Proposed Bill No. 5661 “An Act Concerning Increased Funding for Urban Hospitals in Distressed Municipalities”.

Urban hospitals, like Hartford Hospital, shoulder the large financial burden for the care and treatment of the poor. This comes in the form of underpayment of Medicaid and SAGA as well as uncompensated care. One of the mechanisms the State and Federal Government have to address this situation is the urban hospital pool in the Department of Social Services Budget. This line item currently does not include enough funds to make up the losses experienced by urban hospitals. The intent of HB 5661, as proposed, is to increase the funds to the urban hospital pool and thereby increase funds allocated to urban hospitals for the care of the poor. For this reason, I am in support of HB 5661 established.