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**Testimony Submitted by Greenwich Hospital  
to the Human Services Committee**  
March 4, 2008

**SB 560 An Act Concerning Fair and Adequate Hospital Reimbursement**

We at Greenwich Hospital appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 560 An Act Concerning Fair and Adequate Hospital Reimbursement. We strongly support this bill.

Greenwich Hospital is a 174-bed non profit community hospital, serving lower Fairfield County Connecticut and Westchester County New York. We are a member of the Yale New Haven Health System and an academic affiliate of Yale University School of Medicine.

In FY 07 the Hospital attracted nearly 39,000 patients into our Emergency Department, almost double the 21,000 ED patients that we saw in FY98. This ED growth has occurred as a result of two community hospital closings in nearby Westchester County, New York. This is clearly reflected in an increase in our Medicaid payer mix that is expected to grow by 60 percent from FY 06 to FY 08.

The Hospital's total uncompensated care (including charity care, free care and bad debt) for FY 07 was \$25.0 million. In terms of volume, the Hospital drew 12,779 inpatient admissions in FY 07, 3.4 percent above the prior fiscal year volume, and outpatient visits of 417,745, a 5.1 percent increase over FY 06.

We appreciate the significant increases that Legislature made to the Medicaid program last year. Though as the cost of care continues to increase, our Medicaid reimbursement does not equal the cost of the care we provide.

In the future, as patient demands increase and government reimbursement continues to lag behind cost, our ability to remain fiscally viable will be compromised. We urge your support of SB 560 that will cover the costs we incur today, so that we may continue to provide safe and high quality care to patients in our community and beyond.

We need to be paid what it costs to care for our underserved population. It is essential that we receive full Medicaid cost reimbursement to ensure not just coverage, but access, to high quality health care for Connecticut residents.

We appreciate your concern on this important health matter.