



# HARTFORD HOSPITAL

80 SEYMOUR STREET  
P.O. BOX 5037  
HARTFORD, CT 06102-5037  
860/545-5000

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

### **Raised Bill No. 560 AN ACT CONCERNING FAIR AND ADEQUATE HOSPITAL REIMBURSEMENT**

Good Afternoon, my name is J. Kevin Kinsella, Vice President of Hartford Hospital and I am here today to testify in favor of Raised Bill No. 560, An Act Concerning Fair and Adequate Hospital Reimbursement.

My testimony will focus on section "H" of the bill, which would establish per diem inpatient hospital rates for admissions to Medicare Certified Distinct Part Psychiatric Units in general acute care hospitals.

At the present time general hospitals are reimbursed by Medicaid and SAGA on a case or TEFRA basis for each admission. Hospitals are paid a set amount of money, whether the patient stays 1 day or unlimited days. The set amount of reimbursement is based on a formula of averages and costs. This system works well for acute stays or patients who stay under 7 days but for patients who require intermediate care where lengths of stay average 30 to 60 days, the system is inappropriate. This is most notable in the area of psychiatry where patients are often in need of an intermediate level of care. This proposal would change the case or TEFRA system to a per diem payment system for patients in inpatient psychiatric units of general hospitals.

This proposed change would allow general hospitals to care for more psychiatric patients who are "stuck" in emergency rooms and reduce the very large demand for state hospital beds.

I urge you to pass Raised Bill No. 560.