



**Hospital of  
Saint Raphael**

A member of the Saint Raphael Healthcare System

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
DAVID W. BENFER,  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
HOSPITAL OF SAINT RAPHAEL**

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
February 17, 2009**

**H.B. 6402, AAC MAXIMIZATION OF MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
PERCENTAGES (FMAP)**

The Hospital of Saint Raphael supports H.B. 6402 which would require the Department of Social Services (DSS), in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to identify and study additional ways to maximize federal Medicaid matching funds. The DSS would be required, under this legislation, to issue recommendations on possible changes, including steps that would be required and the impact of such changes.

This proposed bill is especially timely in light of the pending FMAP funds approved in the federal economic stimulus legislation. We, therefore, respectfully request that these actions are implemented immediately so that Connecticut can take full advantage of the unprecedented federal Medicaid relief of \$1.32 billion over the next 27 months. We understand that the federal Medicaid relief will be provided to the states early this year and that it will increase the federal match to the Medicaid program from its current 50 percent to 63 percent.

Please don't miss this opportunity to help those individuals covered by Medicaid insurance and those who may soon need this coverage due to continuing economic decline as well as helping the Hospital of Saint Raphael that continues to offer access to care for all patients, regardless of ability to pay.

We urge you to pass House Bill 6402, AAC Maximization of Medicaid Reimbursement for the State of Connecticut and Federal Matching Assistance Percentages (FMAP) and respectfully ask that you amend the bill to require that these Medicaid matching funds be used to provide rate relief for Medicaid providers to help ensure continued healthcare access and ask that you also amend the bill to require the pursuit of the SAGA waiver.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.