

**Testimony of  
J. Kevin Kinsella, Vice President, Hartford Hospital  
Before Appropriations Committee Regarding the Governor Deficit Mitigation Plan  
December 9, 2009**

I'm here today to express my concerns regarding the latest Deficit Mitigation Plan proposed by the Governor and under consideration by the legislature. The proposed reductions to Medicaid, SAGA and other state sponsored Medicaid programs would have a severe effect on patients especially those with low incomes and hospitals, particularly urban hospitals. **Hartford Hospital has the largest enrollment of SAGA patients of any of the hospitals in the state.** If these cuts were enacted it would have an immediate and significant financial impact on our hospital and our ability to provide these basic health services such as: emergency room visits (H.H. had 100,000 visits last year of which approximately 40% were for patients on Medicaid or SAGA); services to pregnant women; adult dental Care and primary care services for adults. The specific reductions and there effect on Hartford Hospital are as follows:

- 1.) The proposed 5% reduction in Medicaid payments to CT hospitals would result in a 37 million dollar reduction state wide. **Hartford Hospital would experience a reduction of 2.9 million.**
- 2.) A 25% reduction to both the Urban DSH and DSH pools of 11 million statewide. **Hartford Hospital would experience a reduction of 1.2 million.**
- 3.) The suspension of payments related to prenatal undocumented pregnant women, totaling 6 million statewide. **Hartford Hospital would experience a reduction of \$50,000.**
- 4.) The elimination of non emerging dental service for adults under Medicaid and SAGA totaling 13 million state wide. **Hartford Hospital would experience a reduction of \$250,000.**
- 5.) The imposition of co-payments under Medicaid totaling 3 million statewide. **Hartford Hospital would experience a reduction of \$75,000.**
- 6.) **The total reductions to Hartford Hospital under the Governors Deficit Mitigation Plan would be 4.5 million this year.**

These are difficult economic times that have a direct effect on hospitals as we attempt to continue to provide the medical safety net for Connecticut. Hospitals cannot continue to provide and increase services for the poor and uninsured without effecting hospital finances. Hartford Hospital already provides over 22 million in free care. I would urge you to reject these cuts and instead work with the CT Hospital Association to final alternatives via federal reimbursement which would both save the state money while pressuring the needed services. Thank you for your time and consideration.