



**Testimony of Yale New Haven Health System
Before the Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2009**

Department of Social Services

On behalf of Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), thank you for providing an opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Department of Social Services budget proposal.

Yale New Haven Health System, through its Yale-New Haven, Bridgeport and Greenwich Hospital affiliates, provides comprehensive, cost effective, advanced patient care characterized by safety and clinical and service quality to thousands of Connecticut residents each year. The YNHHS has more than 12,000 employees, 3600 medical staff and 1543 licensed beds. As the State's largest Medicaid providers, YNHHS Affiliates were proud to be among the first hospitals in the state to contract with the new HUSKY and Charter Oak managed care organizations to do our part in ensuring adequate network access and continuity of care for the patients we serve.

While we continue to seek adequate reimbursement to cover the cost of the services we provide, we fully recognize that these are difficult times. As such, we were pleased to see level funding for Medicaid provider rates and the continuation of the pools that help to subsidize the spiraling cost of the free and uncompensated care we provide to our most needy citizens, included in the Governor's proposed biennial budget. We urge you, as members of the Appropriations Committee, to maintain this funding.

We are concerned, however, with several HUSKY program changes that are included in the Governor's proposal and their potential for decreasing access to appropriate levels of care for the patients who need them most. In these economic times, it is imperative that the State continue to provide assistance to the more than 300,000 women and children insured by the HUSKY program.

We urge you to oppose the following proposed program changes:

- Impose co-payments in the Medicaid Program;
- Establish premiums for HUSKY A Adults;
- Eliminate self-declaration at application and redetermination;
- Modify the definition of medical necessity and appropriateness under Medicaid;
- Eliminate State-Funded Non-Emergency Medical Assistance to Non-Citizens;
- Limit the dental services benefit for adults to emergencies;
- Increase premium payment requirements under HUSKY B;
- Eliminate supplemental payments for prenatal care when the mother is undocumented;
- Eliminate medical interpreters under Medicaid;
- Closes Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington and moves patients to Connecticut Valley Hospital and to other inpatient and community settings; and
- Combine payments for mobile crisis, crisis respite, and acute psychiatric support programs by redirecting individuals to a less restrictive level of care.

Thank you for your consideration on this important health matter.

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