St.Vincent's Medical Center

6402

TESTIMONY OF
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BEFORE THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

HB 6402, An Act Concerning Maximization Of Medicaid Reimbursement For The State of Connecticut And Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP)

ST. VINCENT'S MEDICAL CENTER is pleased to have the opportunity to submit testimony today on **HB 6402, An Act Concerning Maximization Of Medicaid Reimbursement For The State of Connecticut And Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP).**

HB 6402 proposes that the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall study and report on ways for the state to maximize federal matching funds. ST. VINCENT'S MEDICAL CENTER supports this proposal but recommends that action be taken now to take advantage of available federal matching funds.

Congress is poised to deliver unprecedented Medicaid relief to Connecticut, which will total more than $1.32 billion over the next 27 months. The relief begins with the first calendar quarter of 2009 and will come in the form of an increased federal match to the Medicaid program. Connecticut's match rate will increase from the current 50 percent to around 63 percent.

Given the size of this lifeline, and its time-limited duration, we must act now. Please seize this opportunity to help those who need it most, support those providing the help, and contribute significantly to balancing the state budget.

Please amend HB 6402 to pursue leveraging available federal matching funds, using Medicaid funds for Medicaid to provide some desperately needed rate relief to providers, and pursue the SAGA waiver.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.