

**TESTIMONY OF
VINCENT G. CAPECE, JR., PRESIDENT/CEO
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Friday, March 4, 2011

**HB 6380, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2013**

Middlesex Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6380, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2013.**

Middlesex Hospital is a 200-bed, acute-care community hospital serving the 250,000 residents of greater Middlesex County. We have provided a wide array of essential inpatient and outpatient healthcare services to our community for over 100 years. With over 2,500 employees, we are one of the largest employers and an integral part of the economy in Middlesex County.

This past year, our hospital provided community benefit programs to over 100,000 individuals at a total cost of close to \$30 million. All of these programs have improved the lives of people in our community. If the Governor's budget proposal is implemented, we have estimated that Middlesex Hospital will lose close to four million dollars in funding. These dollars are vital to our ability to continue to meet the healthcare needs of our community, particularly those who are most vulnerable in these difficult economic times.

HB 6380 provides the details for implementing the proposed state budget. I am here to ask you to oppose this bill because it cuts \$83 million in funding from the Uncompensated Care and DSH pools, imposes a 5.5 percent tax on hospitals, and makes a number of other reductions and changes to the Medicaid program that will negatively affect my hospital and the community and patients we serve. In fact, these budget actions threaten our hospital's ability to serve our community.

Middlesex Hospital understands that Governor Malloy is facing an unprecedented state budget deficit and has the tough job of balancing needs and resources. We are all too familiar with the tough choices he must make. However, we know that imposing a hospital tax or eliminating

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