

**TESTIMONY OF
GREENWICH HOSPITAL
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Friday, March 4, 2011

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

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

Greenwich Hospital is a community hospital dedicated to providing quality, value driven health care services to all our patients. With nearly 2000 employees, our patients are assured access to quality health care regardless of ability to pay. We are a 174 bed hospital, and we are committed to a high standard of service excellence, and we are dedicated to exceeding the expectations of those we serve.

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.

More specifically, if passed as proposed, **Greenwich Hospital will lose an additional \$6.7 million due to implementation of the tax and elimination of the hospital pools.** Greenwich Hospital would be among the worst hit by this proposal, and with the passage of healthcare reform, this adds another layer that challenges our ability to continue to deliver excellent care to our patients. Passage of a hospital tax will severely affect our bottom line, causing us to have a negative operating margin. Additionally, our community health programs will be jeopardized, and we will no longer be able to ensure that we have the best technology or be able to attract world-class physicians and surgeons.

In addition to the loss from the tax and the elimination of funding for uncompensated care, Greenwich Hospital will also be harmed by proposals that would cut \$1.1 million in funding for certain hospital outpatient services, reduce non-emergency dental services for adults under Medicaid, and impose cost sharing requirements for certain individuals receiving Medicaid services.

Greenwich 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 funding for uncompensated care will hurt the health of Connecticut citizens and the economy of our state.

We urge you to oppose HB6380 and we thank you for your consideration of this matter.