

**TESTIMONY OF  
GREENWICH HOSPITAL  
BEFORE THE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2011**

**SB 1013, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONCERNING HUMAN SERVICES**

Greenwich Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1013, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN SERVICES**

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

SB 1013 provides the details for implementing the Governor's proposed 5.5% tax on hospitals. On behalf of Greenwich Hospital, we ask you to oppose this bill. As we understand it, Greenwich Hospital will lose nearly \$6 million if the tax is enacted and would be among the worst hit by this proposal.

With the passage of health care reform, this tax would add another formidable challenge Connecticut hospitals would have to confront during a period of increasing uncertainty and change, including a decrease in Medicare payment, 30 million more insured patients, a shortage of primary care physicians, and a rapidly aging population. Most Connecticut hospitals have tight margins and only recently recovered from negative margins. These dollars are reinvested in our facilities, technology and clinical programs.

As we prepare for the implementation of federal health reform, this tax 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.** We know that our community health programs will be jeopardized.

Greenwich Hospital understands that we are facing an unprecedented state budget deficit and that difficult choices must be made. 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. A similar tax was repealed in 2000. Instituting a tax to draw federal funds that will not be invested in health care is bad public policy. President Obama agrees, as he is seeking to phase out the federal match in his recent budget proposal.

We strongly urge you to oppose SB 1013 and thank you for your consideration of this important matter.