



**TESTIMONY OF
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL
BEFORE THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 15, 2011**

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

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

Middlesex Hospital is an acute care community hospital with a main campus located in Middletown. Last year the Hospital provided an estimated \$28 million in community benefit programs and services to the people of greater Middlesex County. Middlesex Hospital offers a wide array of inpatient and outpatient healthcare services to the community. We are one of the largest providers of emergency care services in Connecticut, as we provide upwards of 90,000 emergency service visits annually via three separate 24 hour, 7 day-a-week emergency care facilities.

SB 1013 provides the details for implementing the proposed state budget. I am here to ask you to oppose this bill because it 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 our hospital and the community and patients we serve. In fact, SB 1013—in combination with the budget proposal that recommends a cut of \$83 million in funding from the Uncompensated Care and DSH pools—threatens our hospital's ability to serve our community.

If this budget passes, Middlesex Hospital will lose \$3.4 million. The consequences of losing \$3.4 million are severe. Middlesex Hospital will be forced to reduce the level and types of services it currently provides to all members of the community regardless of their ability to pay. Many of our community benefit programs will have to be reduced or eliminated.

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

Often we only think about hospitals and the care they provide. But cuts of this magnitude will ripple through the economy at both the local and state levels. Middlesex Hospital is one of the largest employers in Middlesex County. We employ 2,500 people from the surrounding communities and pay over \$150,000,000 in salaries and benefits each year.

On top of this loss from the tax and the elimination of funding for uncompensated care, Middlesex 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.

This is not the time to dismantle the healthcare system. There are better options that provide the opportunity for expanding access, reducing the state deficit, reducing the cost shift to Connecticut businesses and employees, and helping address the hospital funding shortfall.

We urge you to oppose SB 1013 and join us in saying NO to hospital taxes and funding cuts.

Thank you for your consideration.

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