Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning SB 1013, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN SERVICES.

Saint Francis is a 617 bed general acute care hospital located in Hartford, Connecticut. Saint Francis is a tertiary teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England and the third largest hospital in Connecticut. In FY2010 Saint Francis provided care to over 32,000 inpatients, 200,000 outpatients and treated over 69,000 people in its emergency department. Saint Francis provided the Greater Hartford community with over 83 million dollars of unreimbursed healthcare services in FY2010 (including bad debt). Over 64 million dollars of the 83 million dollar total was for services identified as community benefits.

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 my hospital and 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 our hospital will lose $3.7 million annually.

- The consequences of losing $3.7 million are severe:
  - Saint Francis will be forced to delay needed renovation projects
  - Eliminate planned physician recruitment and new employee hires
  - Delay expansion of needed health programs
• Saint Francis 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. Saint Francis is one of the largest employers in the Greater Hartford region. We employ over 5,000 people from the surrounding communities and pay over $302 million in salaries each year.

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

  o Through the Burgdorf /Bank of America Health Center and the Saint Francis Gengras Clinics, Saint Francis provides over 10,000 dental visits annually to some of the most needy citizens of Connecticut. Reductions in funding of these programs can only hurt the most vulnerable members of our community.

• 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.