

**TESTIMONY OF
DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO THE
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE, PUBLIC HEALTH,
AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES
Monday, February 14, 2011**

HB 6305, AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN

Day Kimball Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6305, AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN.**

Day Kimball Healthcare is a non-profit, integrated medical services provider comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, four healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield and Thompson, Day Kimball HomeCare, Day Kimball Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, Day Kimball HomeMakers and Physician Services of Northeast CT, LLC.

Our service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 employees including more than 200 highly-skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists.

We are a comprehensive healthcare system offering primary care and a multitude of medical and surgical specialties along with leading-edge technology and sophisticated diagnostics.

The mission of Day Kimball Healthcare is to meet the health needs of our community through our core values of clinical quality, customer service, fiscal responsibility and local control.

HB 6035 implements the recommendations of the SustiNet Health Partnership and sets forth the organizational and operational purposes of the SustiNet Authority and Plans. Section 5 of the proposed bill states that "the purposes of the SustiNet Authority shall be to promote access to high-quality health care that is effective, efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered and equitable.... Section 6 states that the SustiNet Plan shall be administered to slow the growth of health care costs, improve the quality of health care services and improve health outcomes.

TESTIMONY TALKING POINTS

- While we applaud the goals of this proposed bill, we believe that there is a better approach to coordinating with healthcare reform while improving access to care, addressing provider financial losses, reducing the state deficit, and mitigating the cost shift to businesses.
- HB 6035 directs the Department of Social Services to establish a Basic Health Plan, which will essentially become the insurance plan for those individuals with family incomes between 133 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level who are currently covered by Medicaid. Moving individuals to the Basic Health Plan enables the state to shift the full cost of covering these individuals to the federal government—which results in additional state dollars being available to help balance the state budget. It is a plan that benefits the state, but does not address current issues faced by beneficiaries and providers.

- Connecticut hospitals have proposed a solution (attached) that improves the care and value for patients, reduces the state deficit, materially reduces the cost shift to Connecticut businesses and workers, and makes it possible for Connecticut hospitals to remain strong and viable in their role as Connecticut's healthcare safety net.
- Thank you for your consideration of our position.