



HARTFORD HEALTHCARE

**TESTIMONY OF
Hartford HealthCare
(Hartford, Midstate, Windham, Hospital of Central Connecticut,
Bradley Memorial and Nachaug Hospitals)
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

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

Hartford HealthCare (HHC) aspires to be the next generation of integrated health systems, marked by strong patient focus, heightened efficiency, consistent quality performance and collaborative sharing of best practices. With more than 15,000 staff members, including 2,100 physicians, at Hartford Hospital, MidState Medical Center, Windham Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut and other member organizations throughout Connecticut, we provide services ranging from complex hospital procedures to behavioral and home care. HHC sees more than 2.5 million outpatient visits and 80,000 inpatient admissions annually. We perform more than 81,000 inpatient and ambulatory surgical procedures and have more than 286,000 Emergency Department visits each year. HHC seeks to strengthen access to care close to home by enhancing local healthcare capabilities and by providing programs and services to improve community wellness. In addition, HHC aims to create a culture and organizational structure stressing clinical care, education and research in order to bring the latest in treatments and technology to the patient and community.

HB 6035 would implement the recommendations of the SustiNet Health Partnership and establish 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.

Hartford HealthCare believes in improving access to care, focusing our efforts toward consistent quality performance and providing patients with exceptional, coordinated care. 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 establishes a plan that benefits the state by directing 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. This plan, however, does not address current issues faced by beneficiaries and providers. Connecticut hospitals have proposed a solution (download by clicking [this link](#)) 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 while at the same time creates a system that can reliably measure quality, efficiency, and safety.

Like those who participated in the SustNet Partnership, Hartford Healthcare believes in developing a coordinated system of care and a healthcare delivery system that meets the needs of all Connecticut residents. As you seek to address the current challenges of the state budget, and the needs of the uninsured and underinsured, we urge you to consider the CHA proposal as the solution that moves our state and its residents toward the right path.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.