

***Yale New Haven Health System***  
**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**

Yale New Haven Health System, including its affiliates, Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning HB 6305, AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN.

Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS) is Connecticut's leading healthcare system, with nearly 14,000 employees and over 5,000 medical staff who last year provided high quality care health care in over one million outpatient encounters and nearly one hundred thousand inpatient visits. Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, provide comprehensive, cost-effective, advanced patient care characterized by safety, quality and service. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world. YNHHS operates under a shared governance model; each hospital has its own Board of Directors and there is a System Board of Directors. Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals are committed members of their local communities and provide millions of dollars in free and charity care and community benefit activities, such as Habitat for Humanity, workforce development, health education and screenings, school partnerships, and assistance to local nonprofit organizations.

HB 6035 seeks to implement 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. YNHHS applauds the goals of this proposed bill, though we believe there is a better approach to coordinating with federal health care reform while improving access to care, addressing significant provider financial losses, reducing the state deficit, and mitigating the cost shift to businesses.

HB 6035 directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) 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 cost of covering these individuals to the federal government—which results in additional state dollars being available to help balance the state budget.

The plan may benefit the state, but it does not address the current issues faced by clients and providers. Connecticut hospitals have proposed a solution (attached) that we believe 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.

Together with the Connecticut Hospital Association, we look forward to working with you to develop a health care system that meets our shared goals to help improve access to high quality health care in the most appropriate setting, while making health insurance affordable to individuals, and slowing the overall cost. Thank you for your consideration of our position.