



**WATERBURY
HOSPITAL**
HEALTH • CENTER
caring makes a world of difference

**TESTIMONY OF
WATERBURY HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
February 17, 2012**

**HB 5014, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES
AND REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013**

Waterbury Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5014, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013.**

[With close to 2,000 employees, Waterbury Hospital is the largest private employer in the Greater Waterbury region, and serves a vital role in the overall health of the community. It is a private, non-profit acute care teaching hospital licensed for 367 beds, and affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Founded in 1890 as Waterbury's first and Connecticut's fourth hospital, Waterbury Hospital is a full-service community health-care institution with centers of excellence in primary care, cardiac services, behavioral health and orthopaedics. The hospital serves a region of 12 communities with a population of over 280,000 people.]

*Waterbury Hospital knows all too well how difficult it is to operate in this economic environment and make choices among competing priorities. We sincerely thank Governor Malloy for submitting a budget that maintains hospitals' Medicaid rates. We do, however, have concerns over several provisions in the proposed budget.

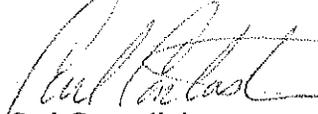
*Waterbury Hospital opposes several provisions in HB 5014 that would negatively impact hospitals and the communities we serve. Specifically, we oppose those provisions that will: 1) reduce Medicaid Low-Income Adult enrollment by seeking a waiver to establish a \$25,000 asset limit (excluding an automobile or home); count family income when determining eligibility for individuals under the age of 26 and either living with their parents or claimed as a dependent for tax purposes; and impose limits on certain medical services; 2) reduce reimbursement rates for certain dental benefits for individuals in the Medicaid program; and 3) revert rates for air ambulances to rates in place in FY 2011.

*We concur with you, Senator Harp and Representative Walker, as well as the chairs of the Human Services and Public Health Committees, when, in your January 11, 2012 letter to Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Roderick L. Bremby, you cautioned that the Medicaid LIA population is one of our most vulnerable, and any modifications of the program would likely cause significant disruption and a loss of benefits.

*These proposed changes will impede access to healthcare coverage for a vulnerable population that just recently became eligible for Medicaid coverage under federal reform.

*Each of these reductions will have a negative impact upon Connecticut hospitals, and make it more difficult for people to find care in the appropriate setting and enroll and remain in Medicaid. In these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever that the state is steadfast in its commitment to help those who cannot help themselves.

SINCERELY,



Carl Contadini
Chairman, Board of Trustees/Directors
Waterbury Hospital
Greater Waterbury Health Network



Darlene Stromstad, FACHE
President and CEO
Waterbury Hospital
Greater Waterbury Health Network