

TESTIMONY OF
Yale-New Haven 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**

On behalf of Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH), thank you for 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.**

YNHH, including Yale-New Haven Children's, Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital, strives to provide sensitive, high-quality health care to all our patients, and serves as a primary care center for thousands of New Haven-area residents and a referral center for patients from around the state and country. With over 8500 employees, Yale-New Haven is the second largest employer in New Haven and continues to be the State's largest hospital provider of services to people covered by Medicaid. Reaching into the community, we enhance student learning through a number of hands-on partnerships in our schools; provide support to local non-profits; build homes with our employees through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity; and remain a sponsor of the nursing program at Gateway Community College.

We understand very well how difficult it is to operate in this economic environment and make choices among competing priorities, particularly as we plan for the implementation of federal health care reform which will reduce payments to us for the services we provide. And, while we thank Governor Malloy for submitting a budget that maintains hospital Medicaid rates, we have concerns over some of the provisions in the proposed budget that will reduce access and increase uncompensated care.

Specifically, YNHH opposes those provisions that will:

(1) reduce Medicaid Low-Income Adult (LIA) 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; and

(2) reduce reimbursement rates for certain dental benefits for individuals in the Medicaid program.

We share your view in cautioning DSS Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby, that the Medicaid LIA population is among our most vulnerable. The budget changes will impede access to healthcare coverage for a population that has just recently become eligible for Medicaid coverage under federal reform. Yale-New Haven Hospital will continue to provide care to those who come to us without regard to their ability to pay for those services. While Connecticut eliminated disproportionate share payments last year, and the federal government will do the same as part of health care reform, YNHH continues to provide high quality services and must make investments in our information systems, facilities and communities, in spite of under reimbursement and free care. Each of these proposed reductions will have a negative impact 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. Thank you for your consideration.