MidState Medical Center
A Hartford HealthCare Partner

TESTIMONY OF
Lucille Janatka, President & CEO
MidState Medical Center

BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Friday, February 22, 2013

HB 6350, *AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE*

While we realize that crafting a state budget for FY 2014-2015 in our current sluggish economy is no easy task, and that rethinking health care spending has to be a part of the state's fiscal solution – there has to be a real understanding that the proposed cuts to Connecticut's hospitals would have a crippling effect on our ability to provide comprehensive, quality patient care to those we serve. It is our patients who need us the most that would ultimately suffer from these cuts, as would our dedicated workforce who ensures that we can provide the type of care we take pride in.

We estimate that for the remaining part of the current fiscal year through fiscal year 2015, this budget would reduce MidState Medical Center's revenue by more than $17 million – that is over $4 million in 2013, over $5 million in 2014, and over $7 million in 2015. Currently, the volume of Medicaid patients receiving services within the Harford HealthCare system approximates 20 percent – or one of every five patients.

I urge you to think hard about the effect these cuts would have on our ability to care for patients. When you are living with cancer... or recovering from a stroke that has left you debilitated... undergoing major surgery or in are need of any type of medical care that compromises your life...you EXPECT the very best medical care – access to the level of services you need, the technology that will help you, the support that will heal you. Regardless of their ability to pay, our patients rely on us during the most fragile time in their lives. These drastic budget cuts would make it virtually impossible for us to maintain the level of care and services our patients need and deserve.