



**TESTIMONY OF
Dan McIntyre, President and Executive Director
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital**

**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***

GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS DAN McINTYRE AND I AM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL IN TORRINGTON, CT SERVING 120,000 LIVES IN NW CT. I AM HERE TODAY TO TESTIFY IN OPPOSITION TO ***HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.***

I HAVE SPENT MY 33 YEARS IN HEALTHCARE IN CONNECTICUT, AS A HOSPITAL SENIOR MANAGER, AND MUST SAY THAT DURING THAT TIME, I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY STATE-RELATED PROPOSED ACTION WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY THE LEVEL OF DANGER TO PATIENT CARE, THAT ACCOMPANIES OUR GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET.

OVER 60% OF OUR PATIENTS (INPATIENT, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, OUTPATIENT) ARE GOVERNMENT-INSURED (MEDICAID/MEDICARE), AS IT IS WITH MANY OF OUR CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS.

CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL'S JOINT COMMISSION PATIENT SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY RATE IS 96.7 OUT OF 100, WHICH MEANS OUR CARE IS QUITE GOOD.

WE DELIVER THIS CARE AT A COST OF LESS THAN \$6,000 PER CASE MIX ADJUSTED EQUIVALENT DISCHARGE (CMAED), MAKING US ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT HOSPITALS IN CONNECTICUT.

OUR OPERATING BUDGET IS \$127 MILLION PER YEAR. THE PROPOSED STATE BUDGET HAS TAKEN AWAY NEARLY \$1.9 MILLION IN MEDICAID FUNDS IN FISCAL YEAR 2013, AND PROPOSES TO TAKE AWAY AN ADDITIONAL \$1.2 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2014, AND A FURTHER \$1.8 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2015.

THE TOTAL CASH WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL'S MEDICAID PAYMENTS OVER THAT 3-YEAR PERIOD IS IN EXCESS OF \$9.8 MILLION.

AS BUSY AS WE ARE, OUR ANNUAL OPERATING MARGIN IS USUALLY LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF 1%. GIVEN OUR ALREADY "LOWEST COST PER DISCHARGE" NUMBER, AND THE HUGE SALARY AND BENEFIT-RELATED SACRIFICES OUR HOSPITAL HAS MADE TO DATE, FURTHER CUTS WILL NEED TO BE AIMED DIRECTLY AT PATIENT SERVICES.

TAKING \$9.8 MILLION IN MEDICAID PAYMENTS FROM OUR EXTREMELY EFFICIENT HOSPITAL WILL NO DOUBT, CAUSE US TO DISMANTLE OUR ORGANIZATION AND SEARCH FOR SOME WAY TO UTILIZE THE REMNANTS OF WHAT WAS ONCE, A PURPOSEFUL, WELL-UTILIZED, CRITICAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, SERVING 120,000 RESIDENTS IN NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT.

THIS WILL HAPPEN EXACTLY WHEN WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SUPPORTING OUR PRESIDENT'S AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND WELCOMING OUR BALANCE OF UNINSURED PATIENTS ONTO THE ROLLS OF THE "INSURED".

HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN IF OUR HOSPITALS ARE RENDERED DYSFUNCTIONAL BECAUSE THE MEDICAID PAYMENTS INTENDED FOR THEM, WERE SIPHONED OFF TO SOLVE AN UNRELATED PROBLEM?

CONSEQUENTLY, OUR JOURNEY TOWARD SUCCESSFULLY INSURING THE UNINSURED ILL AND INJURED STARTS WITH ALL OF US, TRIPPING AT THE STARTING GATE, AND WITNESSING AN IMPORTANT HUMAN SERVICES INITIATIVE IMplode.

PLEASE SAVE CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL AND REJECT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO HOSPITALS' MEDICAID PAYMENTS.

THANK YOU!

RESPECTFULLY,

DANIEL J. McINTYRE, PRESIDENT
THE CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL
540 LITCHFIELD STREET
TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06790
PHONE: (860) 496-6474
CELL: (860) 601-0351