



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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February 22, 2013

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here today to speak in opposition of **House Bill 6350, *An Act Concerning The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015, and Other Provisions Relating to Revenue.***

One of the main reasons for my opposition is Governor Malloy's proposal to cut nearly a half-billion dollars in funding to hospitals by 2015. This would have a devastating effect on state health care institutions and hurt Danbury Hospital, a major employer in western Connecticut which supplies essential services to area residents. The proposed reductions would come on top of cuts acute care hospitals statewide already face as a result of efforts to close a deficit in the fiscal 2013 state budget.

The \$10 million in cuts that are proposed for Danbury Hospital will be detrimental to Danbury and its future. The Western Connecticut Health Network, which owns New Milford Hospital and Danbury Hospital, would lose more than \$30 million in state funding over the next two fiscal years if Gov. Malloy's budget is approved.

These cuts will not only hurt hospitals, they will devastate them. The cuts will cause immediate and lasting damage to Connecticut's health and human services safety net. Moreover, it will undoubtedly put people out of work at a time when the state should be focused on job growth.

I urge you to reject this proposal.