

GREATER NEW HAVEN

Chamber of Commerce

Bethany Branford Cheshire East Haven Guilford Hamden Milford New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

**Testimony of Anthony Rescigno, President
The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
To the Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing – February 22, 2013**

**Re: Testimony in Opposition to *HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE***

I write to you today on behalf of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. We represent approximately 2000 member businesses in the municipalities of Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

The Governor's proposed budget cuts Yale-New Haven hospital's (YNHH) funding by \$126.7 million over the next 2 years. Simply put: these cuts will devastate not only the hospital but our economy as well. YNHH is a critical economic engine not only for our region, but our state. It is one of the greater New Haven region's **largest** employers and is one of the few entities growing jobs and investing in our regional and state economy **without** state support.

In addition to the obvious health care service provided and care-giving role, YNHH is an important part of our local economy and the area's economic development strategies. YNHH is a major purchaser of goods and services that in turn help to stimulate further economic growth in our communities.

The Construction projects at Yale-New Haven Hospital over the years (including the renowned Smilow Cancer Center) and the current projects underway are yet another example. These projects not only generate local jobs and revenue but result in improved healthcare delivery for the community and Connecticut.

I hope you will join me in recognizing it is **critical** – both to our quality of life and economic health that YNHH and in fact all Connecticut hospitals be financially strong and stable. On behalf of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to **oppose** the significant cuts to hospital funding contained in **HB 6350**.

Thank you for your consideration.



Anthony P. Rescigno
President