

Legislative Committee

February 22, 2013

Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

We are writing you today as Co-Chairmen of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee. The Middlesex Chamber is a dynamic business organization with over 2400 members that employ over 50,000 people. The reason for our letter is to offer comment for the state budget public hearing process before the Appropriations Committee.

The Governor's Budget Proposal would have a devastating impact on the state's many hospitals if enacted into law. Dramatically cutting back payments to hospitals that treat uninsured and underinsured patients is a dangerous plan that would negatively impact patient care and would have harmful economic effects. The proposed budget would eliminate revenues that Connecticut's community hospitals reinvest into the community, including state of the art technology, and wellness plans and programs designed to reduce chronic illness. Moreover, Connecticut's community hospitals support thousands of jobs and are major economic drivers. These proposed budget cuts could force hospitals to layoff many employees or reduce their programs. The recently implemented provider's tax is already a burden on hospitals, especially the ones that are net payers. These additional cuts will be very harmful and we urge members of the General Assembly to reject this budget proposal.

The Middlesex Chamber is located in Middletown which is also home to Middlesex Hospital. Middlesex Hospital is a high quality institution that is well managed and plays a strong role in the community while offering excellent patient care. It is also the largest employer in the City of Middletown. The hospitals in this state are critical in many ways. We ask that members seek out ways to at the very least lessen the burden on Connecticut's hospitals which are major employers and providers of incredibly important care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record.

Sincerely,



Rich Carella
Co-Chair
Legislative Committee



Rick Parmelee
Co-Chair
Legislative Committee