



**Testimony of
Robin Wilson
President & CEO
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Appropriations Committee
February 22, 2013**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce wishes to voice our ***opposition*** to the deep cuts that various hospitals will face in their funding as outlined in the proposed budget, including our own MidState Medical Center and its Walk-In center in Wallingford. While we understand that the Governor has a difficult job in proposing a balanced budget, these types of cuts would greatly impact our local community; it is our understanding that for MidState alone these cuts would equal over \$17 million over the next few years.

The MidState Walk-In Center in Wallingford is an essential part of the community and offers treatment for a wide range of minor illnesses and injuries: colds and sore throats, sinus pain and headaches, earaches and fevers, cuts and bruises, muscular aches and pains, sprains and minor fractures, as well as minor burns and other conditions. No appointments are necessary. We are concerned that these and other vital services can and will suffer under the proposed budget cuts to hospitals.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce urges lawmakers to reject this measure. We simply cannot respond to the state's budget crisis by making cuts to vital community partners such as our hospitals. During these difficult economic times, Connecticut's spending and tax policies must remain competitive with other states and of course encourage rather than discourage expansion, innovation and growth. Unfortunately, the budget cuts applicable to hospitals before this committee attempt to unfairly balance the state budget on the backs of our local hospitals.

In order to ensure our state's economic recovery, we must take steps to nurture the growth of businesses, especially and including the burgeoning healthcare sector. By reducing the size of government and making state and local government more efficient, we can work together to address the budget deficit and position Connecticut for economic recovery. Slashing payments to hospitals and other healthcare providers simply makes no sense at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we urge you to reject these cuts.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 650 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.

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