



**TESTIMONY OF
BRISTOL HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE GROUP, INC.
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Friday, February 14, 2014**

**HB 5030, An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015**

Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group, Inc, appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5030, An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015**. Since the passage of the biennium budget this past May, CHA and its members have been working with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a new payment framework for acute care hospitals that provides stable and predictable resources to hospitals while improving care and controlling costs. Our mutual goal has been to develop and implement that framework by July 1, 2014.

Bristol Hospital suffered from last year's budget actions, which imposed a tax of \$336 million on hospitals over the biennium. We've done extraordinary things to minimize the impact to patient care. But it is very challenging.

Altogether, in the last year, Connecticut hospitals have eliminated more than 1,400 jobs, reduced staff salaries and benefits, reduced some services, and postponed investments in technology and infrastructure. This is having a negative effect on the state economy. But we are hopeful that we can improve the situation as well as the quality of care by redesigning the Medicaid program with a keen focus on patients and improving the care they count on.

CHA is proposing a plan that aligns with the state's health reform agenda; builds upon the existing Medicaid FFS payment system; focuses on programs to improve access to appropriate care, thereby reducing disparities and improving population health; uses quality metrics to track and reward change; and invests in hospitals that achieve the shared vision.

Bristol Hospital has always been committed to improving patient care and ensuring that every person receives safe, excellent care. This was shown in 2013 when Bristol Hospital was named the third safest hospital in Connecticut by Consumer Reports Magazine. Patients and families continue to praise the efforts of our staff with consistent patient satisfaction scores for our Emergency Center, inpatient care units and ambulatory surgery. Our efforts in providing safe and effective care were given high marks by the Joint Commission as part of the regular accreditation survey. Additionally, Bristol Hospital received national recognition when Health Information Management Systems Society Analytics announced that we became the first hospital in the country utilizing the Meditech electronic medical record system to be certified as a Stage 7 level organization. This recognition shows how Bristol Hospital is advancing patient safety and care efficiency with a fully paperless deployment of an acute care electronic health record.

Investing in better care for the people of Connecticut is a good investment for the state. CHA is proposing a series of incentives that are tied to producing results. The incentives would be sourced by a \$30 million appropriation of state funds, which would be matched by \$70 million in federal funds. Payout from the incentive pool would be conditioned on achieving results.

CHA's plan would improve people's lives. We are ready to put the plan in place effective July 1, 2014. Please vote to modify the budget to include the investment dollars necessary to make it happen.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.