

**TESTIMONY OF  
VICTOR SANTOS  
NETWORK PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST  
MILFORD HOSPITAL  
BEFORE THE FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 13, 2014  
SB 368, An Act Phasing Out the Hospital Tax**

My name is Victor Santos, and I work at Milford Hospital. I work in IT as a PC Support Specialist. I work with all of our departments so I get to see how our nurses and doctors provide excellent care to patients every day. I also have **experienced** that great care. On April 29, 2013, my daughter was born at Milford Hospital. I am grateful for the healthcare that was provided to my family, and I know that Milford Hospital is there whenever I, or people in my community, need care.

I am here to support **SB 368: An Act Phasing Out The Hospital Tax**. The hospital tax adds a financial burden to hospitals at a time when they need stable resources. I know that hospitals are working to improve care while reducing costs. I see it every day at Milford Hospital. Unfortunately, the tax means that hospitals do not have the resources to invest in technology, infrastructure and new services.

The tax has created a more stressful and challenging healthcare environment. At Milford Hospital, we've made some difficult decisions:

- We reduced staff resulting in 20 FTE's being eliminated.
- The reduction in staffing affected one position whose primary responsibility was outreach to our community.
- Community programs and services were either reduced in scope or completely eliminated. One such example is the elimination of our Nutritional Counseling program which provided one to one counseling to newly diagnosed diabetics, people with high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and those who need to lose weight to improve their health.
- We postponed the purchase of additional diagnostic medical equipment.
- Milford Hospital's staff received an extremely modest pay increase. However, the employees cost share of our benefits increased resulting in less weekly spendable income.

Milford Hospital, like all Connecticut hospitals, is being challenged by this tax. Through the years the community has relied on the hospital not only for its caregivers, but also for its contribution to the local economy.

This tax is also being passed on to employers and patients. We all want medical care to be affordable. Phasing out the tax on hospitals will allow that. It will provide stability to our hospital and our caregivers during a time of transformation in healthcare. And it will keep hospitals caring for people like my wife, my daughter and me... for generations to come.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.