

**TESTIMONY OF
DONNA BENZINGER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRIMARY CARE SERVICE LINE
SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

SB 407, An Act Concerning a Hospital Quality of Care Initiative

I am here today to speak in support of **Senate Bill 407, An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality of Care Initiative.**

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center supports Senate Bill 407 because it seeks to improve health outcomes for Medicaid recipients who are hospitalized and to save state Medicaid funding on unnecessary emergency room visits, hospitalization and readmissions.

This bill, if it becomes law will accomplish this purpose through implementation of best practices in health care delivery to Medicaid patients agreed upon through a collaborative process between the Department of Social Services and the Connecticut Hospital Association.

When successfully implemented the State of Connecticut and its hospital industry will be joined in a cooperative effort to reform our state Medicaid healthcare system in a manner that improves care capability and accountability by shifting the Medicaid payments from payment for volume of services provided to a payment system based on value - focusing on the outcomes and quality of care people receive. The changes proposed by this bill will also allow hospitals to use Medicaid dollars to invest in the infrastructure needed to make care more effective. In addition, as has been true, in other quality initiatives in which Saint Francis participates, best practices and innovative successes at individual institutions can be shared more broadly to ensure system wide benefits.

Saint Francis has always been committed to improving patient experience and ensuring that every person receives safe, excellent care. In fact we believe that just like clean air, pure water, and excellent education facilities, a high-quality healthcare system is a foundational building block for any successful economic growth policy as it creates an environment that creative businesses and skilled workers expect.

In pursuit of excellence in patient care and quality, Saint Francis has recently received a variety of awards including:

- "Great Hospital" rankings for Health Services and Orthopedic Surgery from Beckers' Hospital Review,
- Best Hospital for Surgery from Consumer Reports,
- Leadership in Healthcare Innovation from the Association of American Medical Colleges and Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers,
- Recognition as a hospital "A" Safety Score from the Leap Frog Group
- Recognition for clinical excellence from health Grades, respectively.

Senate Bill 407 creates a partnership between the State of Connecticut and its hospitals to improve the quality of the healthcare its citizens receive while lowering the cost of that care. We urge you to support his bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.