



Griffin Health Services Corporation

**Griffin Hospital**

**TESTIMONY OF  
GRIFFIN HOSPITAL  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

**SB 407, An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative**

Griffin Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *SB 407, An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative*.

Griffin Hospital is committed to initiatives that improve access to safe, equitable, high-quality care. As part of this commitment, we have joined our fellow Connecticut hospitals in several statewide initiatives that involve Connecticut Hospital Association members.

These initiatives include Connecticut hospitals' statewide effort to become high reliability organizations, creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety and a goal to eliminate all preventable harm. This high reliability initiative – the first of its kind in the country – involves all of the state's hospitals and is saving lives. Another such effort is the CHA Diversity Collaborative, which hospitals have joined in an effort to further our collective goals of providing culturally competent care, eliminating disparities, and achieving health equity. This initiative, also the first of its kind in the country, has been recognized as a national model.

SB 407 would provide yet another opportunity for Connecticut – and its hospitals – to be at the forefront of national efforts to improve healthcare. Specifically, the legislation would help improve health outcomes for Medicaid recipients who are hospitalized, as well as reduce Medicaid spending on avoidable emergency room visits, hospital admissions and readmissions.

As we continue to work with the Administration to shape Medicaid system reform, SB 407 would lead to the creation of a value-based Medicaid payment system that would reward hospitals for achieving quality objectives and investing in infrastructure to make care more effective and efficient. The bill would also provide incentives for participating providers to improve outcomes and share data.

As Griffin Hospital and all Connecticut hospitals are working toward the healthcare reform objective of improving care quality and accountability, we are also preparing for the shift from payment for the volume of services provided to payment for value – focusing on the cost, outcomes and quality of care people receive. SB 407 would provide a framework for establishing a hospital reimbursement system that provides financial incentives under the state Medicaid program to hospitals that demonstrate improvement in quality of care indicators. We urge the committee to adopt this legislation to improve care, reduce costs, and position Connecticut as a national leader in healthcare reform.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.