



CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

March 21, 2014

An Open Letter To The Planning And Development Committee

We ask that you oppose HB 5583, *An Act Concerning The Payment Of Real Property Taxes By Certain Institutions Of Higher Learning And Hospital Facilities.*

Connecticut, like the rest of the nation, enacted the property tax exemption for hospitals in recognition of their critically important role in the community. Hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. Additionally, in 2012, Connecticut hospitals invested \$1.2 billion in community benefit initiatives. The commitment of Connecticut hospitals to their communities has not wavered, despite the tumultuous changes in healthcare and increasing financial challenges.

It is our hope that the state will keep the current tax exemption and PILOT funding structure in place. Connecticut enacted the PILOT program to support cities and towns. We understand municipalities are under financial strain, and we applaud the Governor's efforts to increase funding to the PILOT program, which will provide them with additional needed relief.

We ask that you keep the current PILOT funding structure in place and oppose HB 5583. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Chairman, CHA Board of Trustees

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