



YALE NEW HAVEN  
HEALTH

**TESTIMONY**

**Human Services Committee**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

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

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) -- Connecticut's leading healthcare system with over 19,000 employees and nearly 6000 medical staff appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 407, An Act Concerning a Hospital Quality of Care Initiative.

The Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, strives to provide access to integrated, high-value, patient-centered care in collaboration with others who share our values. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world. Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals are committed members of their local communities.

YNHHS hospital affiliates care for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid enrollees and provide millions in free and uncompensated care to those who need our services and cannot pay for them. Every day, our staff cares for individuals and families who lack access to medical, dental and behavioral health care. Our emergency departments are filled with individuals, many of whom have delayed treatment, or who do not have anywhere else to go for medical or mental health care. In the winter, those in need of shelter from the cold also come to us. Many of these patients are covered by Medicaid and, while the coverage is superior, access is severely limited.

The healthcare environment in Connecticut continues to evolve since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The industry is now even-more focused on patient outcomes and we must adopt and embrace a reimbursement methodology, as outlined in SB 407, that saves Medicaid funding by eliminating unnecessary emergency room visits and hospital admissions and readmissions.

CHA is proposing a Medicaid reimbursement 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.

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 non-lapsing account within the Department of Social Services and expended by the Department for purposes of improving quality of care at hospitals. Payout from the incentive pool would be conditioned on achieving results. CHA's plan would improve people's lives, and we are ready to put the plan in place effective July 1, 2014.

We must and will continue to focus on quality and patient safety initiatives, and efforts to improve care efficiency. Our patients, staff and communities are relying on you.

Thank you for your consideration.