

**TESTIMONY OF
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DIRECTOR OF INPATIENT SERVICES
BRISTOL HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Friday, February 27, 2015**

**HB 6824, An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending
June Thirtieth 2017, And Making Appropriations Therefor And Other
Provisions Related To Revenue**

My name is Chris Ann Meaney, and I am Director of Inpatient Services at Bristol Hospital. I oversee our medical/surgical units, clinical nutrition program, breast health services, IV therapy, and orthopedic and bariatric service lines. I've been a nurse in Connecticut since 2001.

I want to stress that the decisions we make at our hospital are always based on what's best for our patients. The unfortunate reality is that we can't always afford what's best. When I make my rounds, I often hear from the nurses that our patients would benefit even more if we had this certain equipment or that certain technology. Keeping up to date on technology is vital to patient care in hospitals, and it's part of what we need to accomplish with healthcare reform, but it's getting harder and harder for us to do that because of financial constraints including government underfunding and the hospital tax.

For example, at Bristol Hospital we continue to work toward implementing electronic health records and tracking, which is expected by patients and mandated by government. To further that goal, we are trying to implement a bed board system, which performs electronic tracking of patients who are being discharged, patients who are being admitted from the Emergency Department, beds that are ready for patients, and much more. I recently asked one patient about her stay, and her main concern was the amount of time it took for things to happen, such as something as simple as getting a chest x-ray. The bed board system would go a long way in helping us enhance our system of care by increasing patient satisfaction and improving our efficiency, but it's in jeopardy because of financial constraints.

Being careful stewards of our precious healthcare dollars is ingrained in our hospital culture. We develop a business plan for each dollar we expect to spend, so we

can show the return on investment in terms of financial impact and/or patient satisfaction. I can't stress enough how fiscally responsible we are.

Patients expect an environment conducive to healing that evolves with the times and continues to improve. We have many initiatives in mind that can benefit our community, but we can't do them if we don't have the capital. We're doing our best, but we need the financial backing of our state to help further our mission, not more cuts and taxes.

As you consider the budget, please support hospitals so nurses like me can support our patients in the best way possible.

Thank you for considering my testimony.