

**TESTIMONY OF
PHIL TARTSINIS
BOARD MEMBER
JOHNSON MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
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

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony concerning **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 Kevin Sullivan, and I'm a Board member of Johnson Memorial Medical Center. I grew up in Connecticut and I live in South Windsor, where I own a property management company. I care very deeply about the people who live and work here.

Johnson Memorial Medical Center provides top notch care to everyone who walks through its doors, regardless of their ability to pay. We employ 1,100 people, and we have a strong nursing union. In total, we have a direct economic impact on our community of more than \$129 million every year. This includes a payroll of more than \$33 million, the purchases of medical supplies and food, and facility upkeep and construction. What we spend on healthcare not only heals people and improves lives, but it helps our local economy stay strong and generates more jobs and spending throughout our community.

It's no secret that we are already being financially squeezed. The Medicaid cuts and expansion of the hospital tax in the proposed budget would threaten our ability to keep our doors open. On top of that, we cannot afford the \$1.1 million impact to Johnson Memorial of losing the distressed hospital fund. It is cuts like this that will force a small hospital like Johnson Memorial to close. We need a long-term plan for hospital sustainability in Connecticut, not more slashing of hospitals.

I have come to know many people in my community, and they always say that they want to receive care close to home. They don't want to travel far when they are having a medical emergency, when every minute counts.

Johnson Memorial provides high quality, lifesaving care every day in our community. It is our mission and has been for more than 100 years. Our community members need Johnson Memorial to be around for another 100 years – for our kids and their kids. That won't happen with cuts and taxes.

Help us keep our hospital strong. Vote "No" on the hospital cuts and taxes contained in HB 6824. Thank you for your consideration of our position.