



TESTIMONY
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Friday, March 6, 2015

H.B. No. 6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS)-- Connecticut's leading healthcare system with over 20,000 employees and 6300 medical staff appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning *H.B. No. 6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE*.

The Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, including the North East Medical Group, strives to provide access to integrated, high-quality, 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. Inside Bridgeport Hospital, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital and our emergency rooms, we provide all levels of mental health care to our State's most vulnerable population--children, young adults, adults and the elderly who come to us from every corner of Connecticut. The majority of these patients are insured by Medicaid. Many are clients of DDS and DMHAS.

YNHHS hospital affiliates care for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid enrollees and, last year, provided **over \$180 million in free and uncompensated care** to those who needed our services and could not pay for them. Every day, our staff cares for individuals and families who lack access to behavioral health care. Our emergency departments are filled with individuals who do not have anywhere else to go for mental health care. They are referred to us by schools, the police and their families. The cuts contained in the proposed budget before you will force even more patients to us as community providers and services provided by DMHAS and DDS are decreased. Our ability to provide this care will be impacted by the significant cuts that we shared with you last week, including Medicaid rate cuts and an increase in the hospital tax.

We currently have 2 fragile children, clients of DDS, who are stuck in our acute psychiatric care units because of budget cuts that have been made and those that have been proposed. This trend will continue and impact more people if this budget is adopted.

We've done extraordinary things to reduce our costs and have minimized the impact to our patients and employees. The Connecticut Hospital Association has estimated the 2-year impact of the budget before you for its members. For Yale New Haven Health, it is projected to be over \$285 million. Investing in better care for the people of Connecticut is a good investment for the state. This budget will further destabilize the hospital industry and compromise our ability to maintain current levels of service and employment.

We must and will continue to focus our energy and resources on quality and patient safety initiatives, efforts to improve care efficiency and those that maintain access. Our patients, staff and communities are relying on you. We urge you to vote to modify this budget.

Together with our patients, their families, and our employees, we thank you for your consideration and support.