



Culture of Caring

LIVING OUR MISSION AND VALUES

**TESTIMONY OF
Dan McIntyre, President and Executive Director
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital**

**BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Friday, February 27, 2015

GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS DAN McINTYRE AND I AM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL IN TORRINGTON, CT SERVING 120,000 LIVES IN NW CT. I AM HERE TONIGHT TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THOSE WE SERVE AND THE 1200 EMPLOYEES AND PHYSICIANS THAT COMPRISE OR HEALTH SYSTEM. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AND SHARE MY THOUGHTS.

A quick description . . .

- My small and very special Community Hospital maintains a Joint Commission Patient Safety Score of 97.8%, serves a government-insured population which comprises 70+% of our Payer Mix, and remains the lowest cost Hospital in the State for most of the last 13 years running.
- During my 36 years of Hospital Leadership, I have watched as hospitals have become a lesser priority in many budget arenas. It almost seems as though we have to wait for a series of unfortunate events to happen, before the economic system re-adjusts to be more sensitive to our absolute dependency on highly skilled manpower and costly technological resources.
- And God Forbid, that if the unending cuts in our payments ever disable us from delivering the best care we can, I doubt whether anyone will remember that this State allowed over \$800 million in Medicaid Funding (money intended to care for Medicaid Patients) to be used instead, to solve a State Budget problem.
- Maybe this unfortunate development is our fault . . . we are an industry of Healers!
- We are not Strategic Political Warriors. Nor are we Clever Public Relations Strategists. We are Healers.

- And because we are about the business of Healing, we haven't learned how to fight for our causes very well. We don't know the art of war, as well as others.
- We simply spend our time trying to bring hope and comfort to our ill and injured.
- So when it comes to fighting for budget dollars, we become "the Path of Least Resistance" . . . the segment that won't fight back, and won't cause trouble.
- We're the segment who can be described as a relatively small, esoteric group, whose situation is not well understood because of its complexity and its uniqueness.
- Consequently, I believe that some folks count on the fact that most people won't react dramatically to our plight, unless and until they are directly affected.
- I'm sure you've considered this:
 1. At the single most crucial time in the implementation of the ACA in Connecticut, the Executive Branch of State Government has repeatedly taken the exact dollars that were intended to support this initiative, and used the money instead, to solve the State's Budget problem.
 2. The apparent group that is immediately and visibly hurt by this tax mechanism is the Hospital Group, so it is unlikely that the general population will react right away, or that an uprising will occur.
 3. But, this "Path of Least Resistance" to a budget solution, is cutting away at the very infrastructure that supports our President's National Healthcare Initiative in Connecticut! If not today, it will eventually hurt every man, woman, and child in need of medical attention or social services.
- A couple of years ago, some of you recognized the importance of helping high quality, low cost, high Government-insured hospitals, whether or not those hospitals were independent, or part of a larger system. You were there for us!

- That “Help” is now missing from the Governor’s proposed budget.
- It has instead, become part of the 800 million plus dollars, that was and is intended to help Medicaid patients, and that has been and continues to be used instead, to solve a State Budget problem.
- Please, do not allow any Branch of our State Government to impose a Hospital Tax just because it’s legal.
- Please, do not allow anyone to pretend that in doing so, that it is not depriving the Medicaid Program and its Patients from receiving the money to which they are rightfully entitled.
- Please, help us!
- Thank you.

Respectfully,
Dan McIntyre



Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

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The Reality of the Hospital Tax

	(A) Hospital Taxes	(B) Hospital Receipts	(C) Federal Payment to the State	(D) Net Benefit to (Tax on) Hospitals	(E) Annual Help to Hospitals from the State Losses due to the Hospital Tax	(F) Net Benefit (Cost) to General Fund	
				(A)-(B)			
2011	0	83	42	83		(42)	
2012	349.1	399	200	50	(33)	149	START OF TAX, 2012
2013	349.1	323	161	(26)	(110)	188	
2014	349.1	230	135	(119)	(202)	254	
2015	349.1	81	54	(269)	(352)	323	
2016	514.4	246	165	(269)	(352)	433	
2017	514.4	246	165	(269)	(352)	433	
			<u>922</u>	<u>(818)</u>	<u>(1,401)</u>	<u>1,738</u>	
			880	(902)		1,782	

① $\sum_{2012}^{2016} = \$633,000,000$ FROM HOSPITAL MEDICAID FUNDS.

② $\sum_{2012}^{2017} = \$902,000,000$ FROM HOSPITAL MEDICAID FUNDS