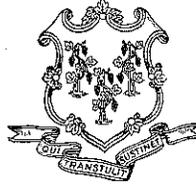


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Good Morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Representative Joe Aresimowicz from the 30th District serving Berlin and Southington. I am here today to testify in full **SUPPORT** of HB 6938- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE AND MODERNIZATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

As a member of this legislative body I made a promise to the people I was elected to represent to give them the best quality of life possible. A major factor of a high quality of life is access to the best quality healthcare. During the 2014 session, we as members of the General Assembly heard the testimony of hundreds of community leaders, patients and employees about the need to support our non-profit hospitals. In the end, we crafted bipartisan legislation to allow our non-profit hospitals to contract with out-of-state, for-profit entities provided those entities agreed to certain conditions to ensure the delivery of high-quality health care and the protection of assets. Over the past few months, we saw the one major for-profit chain that was looking to come into Connecticut refuse to meet those conditions as set by the Office of Health Care Access and the Attorney General. This proposed bill takes us in a different direction than looking out of state for answers, it attempts to help our hospitals through existing state funded programs and provide REAL solutions that financially unstable hospitals can use to improve their current situation.

The first section of the proposed bill looks to expand the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) financing options which will enable hospitals to acquire medical equipment, update information technology, renovate health care facilities and build new health care facilities. The intention of this section is to look into financing such as increasing the amount of bond funds available to hospitals through CHEFA and providing no or low-interest loans and loan forgiveness to hospitals to encourage job retention or creation commitments. Through DECD and CHEFA we can increase the access to capital that our non-profit hospitals say they need.

The second portion of this bill looks to the creation of a feasibility study by the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Administrative Services permitting hospitals to join state prescription pooling contract as well as other group purchasing contracts available to agencies and municipalities. This will allow for leverage for buying power and will help to create greater savings for not only the state, which in hand will be given to its employees.

The last part of the bill will create a feasibility study conducted through the Office of the Healthcare Advocate. The study will determine the feasibility of seeking federal funds for the State Innovation Model (SIM) program to establish a model initiative in Waterbury for the cost-

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

efficient delivery of quality hospital-based healthcare services. SIM was created to transform Connecticut's entire healthcare system and control the costs of care for every state resident. It is time for us to look at this as a means to help our struggling hospitals and establish the best effective method for its use.

This proposed legislation is just the beginning. A significant portion of our state budget, between healthcare costs for our employees and retirees, HUSKY, community programs we fund through various agencies, we have the opportunity, and I believe the obligation, to take a serious look into different methods to save on healthcare care cost as well as broaden access and availability in our state. I believe this proposal gives us that opportunity and for that reason I am in full support of this important piece of legislation and urge your support.

