



**TESTIMONY OF
DARLENE STROMSTAD, FACHE
PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**HB 5588, An Act Concerning The Timing of Payments From Supplemental Inpatient Payment Pools
For Short-Term General Hospitals**

Waterbury Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5588, An Act Concerning The Timing of Payments From Supplemental Inpatient Payment Pools For Short-Term General Hospitals**.

On March 2, hospitals received notice the Department of Social Services (DSS) has been ordered to "hold on making any additional supplemental payments through either the inpatient supplemental pool or the small hospital pool." And, further, the Office of Policy & Management Secretary stated that he was "not optimistic that we will be able to move forward with any further state payments this fiscal year."

HB 5588 would require DSS to make timely and adequate payments to hospitals from supplemental inpatient payment pools and to require that the money in the payment pools not be used for any other purpose. We're asking the members of this Committee to pass this legislation.

At Waterbury Hospital, we do understand that the state is faced with its own fiscal challenges—something we can relate to all too well. However, it is disappointing that we will not be getting paid the money we are owed for patients we have already treated—funding that was appropriated in the State Budget. We are taking care of some of the state's most vulnerable citizens and have done so at expense which needs to be reimbursed. If this funding is not released as it should be, there will clearly be an impact on Waterbury Hospital, our employees, our patients, and our communities.

While the state works out this issue, we will continue to forge ahead and deliver on our promise to our patients and the community. We encourage you to do the same for Waterbury Hospital by passing HB 5588.

Please support HB 5588. Thank you for your consideration.