

**TESTIMONY OF  
JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

**SUBMITTED BY  
PATRICIA JAGOE, RN, MSN, CNOR,  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, PATIENT CARE SERVICES/CNO  
TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**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**

I, Patricia Jagoe, RN, MSN, CNOR, Assistant Vice President, Patient Care Services / CNO, Johnson Memorial Hospital, appreciate this 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, 2016, hospitals received notice that Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, Benjamin Barnes, ordered the Department of Social Services (DSS) to "hold on making any additional supplemental payments through either the inpatient supplemental pool or the small hospital pool." In addition, Secretary Barnes 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 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 purpose.

Johnson Memorial Hospital provides core healthcare services to all of the people in Connecticut 24 hours a day regardless of ability to pay. We offer safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care that protects and improves peoples' lives. Johnson Memorial Hospital spends millions of dollars each year on staff salaries, the purchase of supplies and food, as well as facility construction. These dollars generate additional jobs and spending in our community, as well as large sums of tax revenue used to fund state and federal programs. In fact, Johnson Memorial Hospital serves more than 3,000 inpatients and 82,000 outpatients each year. We employ 800 people, including over 200 members of the medical staff. Beyond the lifesaving care we provide 24 hours a day,

we also contribute to our local and state economies each year \$131,106,000 and invest \$6,441,562 in improving the health of our community.

Both Johnson and Saint Francis will pay approximately \$42.9 million in taxes as part of the \$556 million in annual taxes levied on the state's hospitals by Connecticut's Hospital Tax.

To arbitrarily not pay what is owed to hospitals from the inpatient payment pools will devastate a small hospital like Johnson Memorial. The estimated financial impact to Johnson Memorial Hospital is approximately \$5 million. Programs would need to be seriously reduced and/or eliminated as well as potential expansion of employment opportunities.

We believe there is a better way Connecticut's hospitals can make a difference, which is why we should invest in our hospitals. The Johnson community needs their hospital to be there to serve as a safety net to protect them when they have an emergency. We need a sustainable healthcare environment in our state, not more cuts and taxes. Vote "yes" on the payment to hospitals contained in **HB 5588, An Act Concerning The Timing of Payments From Supplemental Inpatient Payment Pools For Short-Term General Hospitals.**

Trinity Health – New England, for which Johnson Memorial Hospital is a member, believes in a vibrant future for the health care industry in this state; but that future can only be achieved if state leaders invest in that future rather than tear down existing health care infrastructure on which that future must be built. We know the state is facing a challenging budget, but we have already been cut and taxed so significantly that it is hurting patient care, access, jobs, and our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. **Please support HB 5588.**

Respectively Submitted,

Patricia Jagoe, RN, MSN, CNOR  
Assistant Vice President, Patient Care Services/CNO