



**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT SMANIK, PRESIDENT & CEO, DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE
SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016**

**HB 5588, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF PAYMENTS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL INPATIENT
PAYMENT POOLS FOR SHORT-TERM GENERAL HOSPITALS**

Hello, I'm Robert Smanik, president and CEO of Day Kimball Healthcare. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB5588. Your support of this bill is crucial. To be candid, I sit before you today in shock.

Even after we absorbed repeated cuts to our funding along with a nearly 50% increase in our hospital tax, we are now forced to fight for what remains. This is the third time in the last year that our organization, our community and our local legislators have had to fight for funding that should never have been taken from our hospital in the first place, and the second time in the last six months that the state has reneged on its promise to pay the funding our state's legislators voted to restore.

For Day Kimball Healthcare, the loss of this funding will amount to a net annual tax of \$5.6 million and an unexpected loss of \$3.8 million in promised funds when we're already halfway through our fiscal year. How can any organization or business be expected to absorb such a loss? But what's worse, we are not just any organization or business – we are the major provider of healthcare and the single largest employer in Northeast Connecticut, one of the most economically disadvantaged regions in the state.

Imagine the impact if those funds could be directed back toward caring for our community.

Instead, in order to help make up for the state's shortfall in economic planning, we have already had to cut expenses, close physician's offices, reduce our workforce by more than 100 positions and make adjustments to wages and benefits. Despite these immense challenges, our hospital has continued to receive numerous distinctions for both quality and value, and we have remained steadfast in our mission to care for the people of Northeast Connecticut. Because we do care.

But now, as we face the loss of this critical funding yet again, the only conclusion I can reach and thus share with our community is that our state doesn't care; that our governor doesn't care; that access to healthcare and jobs for the 100,000 people in the northeast corner of our state is expendable.

We have fought the loss of these funds that rightfully belong to our hospital for the care of our community twice before, and we will fight twice as hard for them again this time. But there is only so much our small community hospital can be expected to absorb.

We have acted prudently and responsibly in the face of prior cuts to protect that which is most precious to those we serve - their health and their livelihood. Today I stand before you and ask that our legislature do the same by voting in favor of HB5588.

I don't wish to minimize the tough decisions you must make, yet I urge you to keep hold of a sense of even handedness and wellbeing for all in our state.