



affiliate Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
member New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System
A Planetree Hospital

**TESTIMONY OF
Stamford Hospital
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

Stamford 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](#) 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 other purpose.

Stamford Hospital is an independent, non-profit regional hospital affiliated with New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System, and a major teaching affiliate of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Stamford Hospital's Emergency Department served more than 75,500 patients in 2015. The hospital employs 2,400 people and more than 700 physicians have privileges. Beyond the lifesaving care we provide 24 hours a day, we contribute more than \$1 billion to our local and state economies each year and invest millions in improving the health of our community. After years of planning and budgeting, Stamford Hospital is nearing completion of a new, 640,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art hospital will open in September 2016. This project is a \$500 million investment in our community.

Stamford 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.

But this job is much harder because we are under significant financial stress. From fiscal year 2012 to 2016, Stamford Hospital will have paid nearly \$ 100 million in taxes to the state of Connecticut. The impact on Stamford Hospital in 2017, based on the proposed budget, will be another \$28.6 million. These dollars were budgeted for bond obligations, technology upgrades patient care and more hiring.

As we complete the construction of our new hospital and train our staff for a major transition, nonpayment of budgeted, approved funds from the state impacts our current budget by an additional \$5 million this fiscal year. Clearly, more difficult decisions lie ahead if these funds are withheld. Last year layoffs and program cuts were necessary.

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. We urge the legislature to reverse the hold on hospital payments.

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