

STATEMENT OF JOHN SKELLY
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5506

I am the Chief Financial Officer of Bridgeport Hospital. Bridgeport Hospital, along with a number of Connecticut hospitals felt that it was consistently being underpaid in workers' compensation cases particularly by parties represented by Fairpay Solutions. Along with a number of other hospitals, Bridgeport Hospital agreed to place all of its cases on hold while certain test cases were prepared and presented. These cases eventually were resolved by the Connecticut Supreme Court in July 2017. The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the Connecticut hospitals. This ruling should have resolved the several thousand cases which had been placed on hold pending the decision by the Connecticut Supreme Court.

However, in June of 2015, in Public Act 15-5 §459, the implementer bill, a provision was included which some argue was intended to overrule the Supreme Court decision and to apply to the many cases pending before the Workers' Compensation Commission.

This action was taken without any input or even knowledge of our hospital that it was taking place.

If this implementer provision is allowed to stand, it may require the Workers' Compensation Commission to hold hearings in several thousand pending cases.

We hope that the General Assembly will make clear that it did not intend to overrule the Supreme Court's decision.

Dated at Bridgeport, Connecticut, this 8th day of March, 2016.

John Skelly