



**TESTIMONY**  
**LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**HB 5506, AN ACT STUDYING THE LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION CASES**

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), Connecticut's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest employer, appreciated the opportunity to submit testimony concerning *HB 5506, An Act Studying the Liability of Employers in Workers' Compensation Cases*.

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), comprising Bridgeport Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals and their affiliated organizations, including the Northeast Medical Group is Connecticut's leading healthcare system. With over 20,000 employees and over 6,300 medical staff, we are among the largest employers. YNHHS provides comprehensive, cost-effective, advanced patient care characterized by safety, quality and service. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world.

YNHHS hospital affiliates continue to be a safety-net for our communities, and we provide care 24 hours per day, seven days per week. In addition to being economic engines for our communities, YNHHS hospitals care for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid patients and provide millions of dollars in free and uncompensated care to those who need our services and have no ability to pay for them.

Yale New Haven Health System Hospitals, along with a number of Connecticut hospitals were consistently being underpaid for workers' compensation cases particularly by parties represented by Fairpay Solutions. Along with a number of other hospitals, YNHHS agreed to place all of its cases that were pending before the Workers' Compensation Commission on hold while certain test cases were prepared and presented. The test cases were eventually resolved by the Connecticut Supreme Court in March 2015 who ruled unanimously in favor of Connecticut hospitals. This ruling was intended to resolve the several thousand cases which had been placed on hold pending the Supreme Court decision.

However, a provision was included in Section 459 of Public Act 15-5 during the June 2015 special session that we believe essentially overrule the Supreme Court decision and will thereby impact the many cases pending before the Workers' Compensation Commission. This action was taken without any input or knowledge of our health system.

If Section 459 of Public Act 15-5 is allowed to stand, it may require the Workers' Compensation Commission to hold hearings on several thousand pending cases. We respectfully request that the General Assembly make clear that it did not intend to overrule the Supreme Court's decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.