

TESTIMONY OF
Stamford Hospital
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 11, 2016

HB 5044, An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year
Ending June 30, 2017

Stamford Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5044, An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017**. This bill cuts more than \$90 million from core healthcare services – hospitals and vital mental health programs.

These cuts provide a short-term budget fix, when what the state needs is a long-term plan for hospital sustainability in Connecticut.

Stamford Hospital is an independent 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. A new 640,000 square –foot, state of the art hospital will open in September 2016, which represents 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. The human and financial impact of these continued cuts and increased hospital taxes have led to jobs losses, elimination of budgeted positions and programs, as well as leaving vacant over 110 positions.

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 are asking you to consider a solution that helps hospitals as well as the state:

The Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Connecticut released an economic analysis showing that by returning to hospitals the taxes they pay to the state and maximizing the federal match, the state can generate 6,600 jobs, and bring in close to \$35 million every year starting in the first year. This solution would enable the state to grow jobs and revenue quickly, and maintain it – as well as strengthen our healthcare system – for years to come. Investing in hospitals is a win for our state’s economy, patients, communities, and healthcare system.

Our community members need their hospital to be there to protect them when they have an emergency. We need a sustainable healthcare environment in our state, not more cuts and taxes. Vote “No” on the hospital and healthcare cuts contained in HB 5044. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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