



**TESTIMONY OF**  
*Patrick Broderick, MD*  
*Western CT Health Network*  
**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**

On behalf of the Western CT Health Network, we appreciate 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 more from core safety-net services affecting hospitals and vital mental health programs.

These cuts provide a short-term budget fix for the general fund, at a time when the state really needs long-term planning for sustainable healthcare in Connecticut.

Danbury, New Milford and Norwalk hospitals serve all-comers requiring medical care across western Connecticut. In order to do this, we employ approximately 7,000 people, who provide lifesaving care 24 hours a day, every day of the year. We contribute to our local and state economies each year and invest approximately \$180 million to keep our communities safe and well. **ALL** of this is at risk if these cuts go forward. Programs and services **WILL** be cut and the jobs that support these programs and services, no longer necessary as a result.

Danbury, New Milford and Norwalk hospitals provides core healthcare services to all of the people in Connecticut, 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. We offer safe, accessible, culturally sensitive, affordable, patient-centered care that saves lives and improves quality of life.

But our job is much harder because we are under continued and significant financial stress due to increasing hospital tax and reduced Medicaid reimbursements. That's money we would have invested in outreach, wellness and prevention programs, medical education, research and patient engagement. Instead, we are forced to eliminate programs, shortened service hours, outsource departments, postpone needed capital projects, changed our employee benefits and reduced our workforce.

We know the state is facing a challenging budget, but hospitals have already been cut and taxed so significantly that it is hurting patient access and care, jobs, and even our local 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, 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.