



TESTIMONY
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 11, 2016

H.B. No. 5044 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS)-- Connecticut's 3rd largest employer with over 20,000 employees and 6300 medical staff appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony concerning ***H.B. No. 5044 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017***.

The Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, including the North East Medical Group, strives to provide access to integrated, high-quality, patient-centered care in collaboration with others who share our values. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world. Inside Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, we care for more children than any other provider in the state. 55% of our kids are insured by Medicaid. We care for our State's most vulnerable population, by providing psychiatric care to children, young adults, adults and the elderly who come to us from every corner of Connecticut. The majority of these patients are insured by Medicaid.

The 3 YNHHS hospital affiliates care for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid enrollees. Every day, our staff cares for individuals and families who lack access to medical, dental and mental health care. Our emergency departments are filled with individuals who do not have anywhere else to go for medical or mental health care. Last year, we provided thousands of psychiatric assessments to children in our emergency departments. This time of year, those in need of shelter come to us, largely through the emergency department. Many of these patients are covered by Medicaid and, while the benefit package is superior, access is limited. During the cold winter months, those in need of shelter come to us, not for medical care, but for shelter. The Medicaid population is steadily growing due to the expansion of eligibility, as is our Medicaid loss. With the additional cuts in December, Medicaid now reimburses us less than 40 cents per dollar of cost. The proposed budget before you includes a \$30 million cut for FY17 which, with the loss of federal matching dollars, results in a \$90 million cut to hospital payments.

There have been no layoffs, though we no longer fill positions as they become vacant without a thorough review process. While we are being pressured to create more jobs, we are constrained by increased state taxes and reduced Medicaid reimbursement.

We continue to focus our energy and resources on quality and patient safety initiatives, efforts to improve care efficiency and those that maintain access. Our patients, staff and communities are relying on you. We urge you to vote to modify this budget and restore the 30 million dollar cut.

Together with our patients and over 20,000 employees, we thank you for your consideration and support.