



**TESTIMONY OF  
BRISTOL HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE GROUP SUBMITTED TO THE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
Friday, February 26, 2016**

**SB 49, An Act Concerning An Exemption From The  
Hospital Tax For Hospitals In The Small Hospital Pool**

Thank you Senator Fonfara and Representative Berger for chairing the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. I also want to thank the committee vice chairs, Senator Leone, Representative Lemar and Representative Santiago as well as ranking members, Senator Frantz and Representative Davis.

Bristol Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning Senate Bill 49, An Act Concerning An Exemption From The Hospital Tax For Hospitals In The Small Hospital Pool. My name is John Leone and I am the chairman of the board of directors for Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group.

I am here today to encourage you to support the passage of Senate Bill 49. This bill allows for the continued fiscal health of the state's small hospitals including Bristol. When it comes to hospital finance, one size does not fit all and this bill provides some much needed fiscal relief to the state's small hospitals.

I want to highlight for you, the vital role that Bristol Hospital plays in the community and how your passage of Senate Bill 49 will ensure that Bristol Hospital will be an economic pillar for generations to come.

I am a lifelong Bristol resident and having served as a former police officer, city councilor, mayor and president of the Chamber of Commerce, I greatly appreciate the role Bristol Hospital has played in my life. Taking on the role of board chairman was the next natural step for me.

Bristol Hospital is the cornerstone of our community as we care for residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Accessible, high-quality health care is just as necessary as public schools, safe streets, transportation, public utilities and police protection.

Bristol Hospital spends millions of dollars each year on staff salaries, the purchase of supplies and food, and facility construction. These dollars move through the larger economy, generating additional jobs and spending in the community, as well as large sums of tax revenue used to fund state and federal programs.

According to the Connecticut Hospital Association, Bristol Hospital has a direct economic impact on our community of more than \$282 million dollars. As the second largest employer in the city, Bristol Hospital provides more than 1600 full- and part-time jobs with a total payroll of \$77.2 million dollars.

The money spent by our employees on such items as groceries, clothing and bills, generate about \$78.2 million dollars and even create an additional 910 jobs for the local economy. Bristol Hospital's expenditures on buildings and equipment also generate an additional \$5.6 million dollars in local economic activity.

None of this progress is possible without the contributions of all those in the Bristol Hospital community. This includes our extraordinary staff whose lives are dedicated to providing safe and high-quality care to our patients and families. Generations of families have come to rely on Bristol Hospital to care for them in sickness and in health, and thanks to your support of Senate Bill 49, our mission will continue.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Mae Flexer, Representative Christine Randall and Representative Daniel Rovero for introducing Senate Bill 49. I also want to thank Senator Henri Martin who is co-sponsoring this bill. Senator Martin—as well as all the members of our local delegation—is a true champion of Bristol Hospital and we thank him for his continued support.

Thank you for this opportunity today.

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