Hartford HealthCare

TESTIMONY OF
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IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN, CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS, FINANCE, HUMAN SERVICES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES
Friday, December 13, 2019

The Connecticut Hospital Association, et al. v. Connecticut Department of Social Services, et al. Settlement Agreement

An Act Concerning Implementation Of The Approved Settlement Agreement In The Connecticut Hospital Association Et Al. V. Connecticut Department Of Social Services Et Al. And Making Appropriations Therefor

Good afternoon. My name is David Whitehead, and I am Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, Hartford HealthCare. I am also Immediate Past Chairman of the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees. Thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks in support of the hospital settlement agreement and its implementation language in **An Act Concerning Implementation of the Approved Settlement Agreement in the Connecticut Hospital Association et al. V. Connecticut Department of Social Services et al. and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

I am pleased to be here today. The litigation began in 2015 and, four years later, this agreement accomplishes the positive change we sought. It provides the stability hospitals and healthcare systems need as we aspire to heal and improve the health of Connecticut residents. It represents a return of the hospital tax to its original purpose – a means to attract federal dollars to Connecticut without being a real net tax burden to hospitals. And, importantly, it represents a new start for a collaborative relationship with the state, and a shared goal of building a healthier Connecticut.

Caring for people is not only our mission, but our calling. Hospitals and healthcare systems are intrinsically motivated to build a healthier Connecticut one person at a time, one encounter at a time. Commitment, compassion, and optimism are the building blocks. At Hartford HealthCare, our doors never close. Every day of the year, we provide care to 17,000 individuals. To be able to do that, we need to be reliably and sustainably reimbursed by the state. The agreement will fortify our hospitals and healthcare systems well into the future, and it will strengthen patient care and access.

Hospitals are the cornerstones of our healthcare system, our communities, and also our economy. Hartford HealthCare generates almost $6 billion for the state's economy each year. That includes the great jobs we provide, hospital spending, capital improvements, and the ripple effect into our larger economy. Building a healthier Connecticut means having a quality healthcare system that endures, and that is a key outcome of this agreement.

We are looking forward to a strong partnership with the state – a collaboration to improve lives for all Connecticut residents. The settlement agreement sets the stage for the fresh beginning we need. We urge you to pass both the settlement resolution and the accompanying legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.