



**TESTIMONY OF
JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
REGIONAL CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
TRINITY HEALTH OF NEW ENGLAND
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS, FINANCE, HUMAN SERVICES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019**

Trinity Health Of New England strongly supports **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.**

Trinity Health Of New England includes Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford; Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury; and Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs. In addition, our ministry includes physician practices, an ambulatory services network, and post-acute care services. We are more than 13,000 health care providers committed to being a transforming and healing presence in the communities we serve. Our hospitals provide more than 265,000 emergency department visits, 40,000 surgeries and 5,000 births annually. We do more than treat illness and injury. We are helping to build a healthier Connecticut by improving community health, managing chronic illness, expanding access to primary care, preparing for emergencies and addressing social determinants of health.

After months of negotiating, the Lamont Administration, the Attorney General, and Connecticut hospitals have come to an agreement that will end more than four years of litigation. The agreement benefits the state, hospitals, and the patients they serve.

Trinity Health Of New England urges the General Assembly to pass both the settlement resolution and the accompanying legislation.

The settlement represents a return of the original purpose of the hospital tax – a financing tool to help improve the health of those served by the Medicaid program.

Over the next seven years, the settlement eliminates \$1.6 billion in net tax burden to hospitals and attracts \$4 billion in federal dollars for the general fund, while eliminating a \$4 billion potential liability for the state.

Your support for this settlement will help ensure that Trinity Health Of New England's hospitals and those we serve stay healthy.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you need additional information, please contact Daniel F. Keenan, Vice President Advocacy and Government Relations, Trinity Health Of New England at dkeen@trinity-health.org or 860-714-0437.