

**TESTIMONY OF
MARNA BORGSTROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
YALE NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL AND YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS, FINANCE, HUMAN SERVICES,
AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES
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 Marna Borgstrom. I am Chief Executive Officer, of Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health, and a member of the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. I am here today to urge your 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.**

The Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich, L+M, and Yale New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, provides comprehensive, value-based patient care characterized by excellence in clinical quality, patient safety and patient experience. We serve as the primary community healthcare providers for each of the communities we serve and our Y-ACCESS program accepts nearly 700 medically complex patient transfers to Yale New Haven Hospital every month from other hospitals in Connecticut and the northeast.

Yale New Haven Health cares for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid population, and provided more than \$700 million in uncompensated care in fiscal year 2019. Every day, our staff care for individuals and families who lack access to and coverage for medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare. Our emergency departments are filled with individuals, many of whom have delayed treatment, or who do not have anywhere else to go for medical or mental healthcare. Many of these patients are insured by Medicaid which has a long history of providing reimbursement at levels that are well below our costs and is among the lowest in the country. The settlement agreement's stabilization of the hospital tax and Medicaid rates provides essential predictability and support for Connecticut's healthcare infrastructure.

Yale New Haven Health is a proven strong community partner. Our hospitals and their affiliated organizations provide millions of dollars in free and charity care and community benefit activities, such as investments in education programs, Habitat for Humanity, workforce development, health education and screenings, school partnerships, and assistance to local not-for-profit organizations that provide critical services to people in the communities we serve.

In addition to serving as a healthcare safety net, Yale New Haven Health is one of the State's largest employers with more than 28,000 people. In total, the Yale New Haven Health System generates \$8.9 billion for the state's economy each year, and drives growth in the healthcare, biotechnology, and research fields, as well as in many other sectors.

The settlement agreement will help to reduce the significant losses we currently experience as the largest providers of care to Medicaid-insured patients in the State, in spite of the important work we've done to reduce costs. It also will support our work as community partners and will enable us to continue to make key investments that support the economic prosperity of our State. In summary, it is good for patients, local communities, and our State.

We urge you to pass both the settlement resolution and the accompanying legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support.