

Testimony of Deborah Weymouth, CEO
Eastern Connecticut Health Network
Manchester Memorial Hospital
Rockville General Hospital

Public Hearing on Hospital Settlement Agreement

Appropriations Committee
Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee
Human Service Committee
Public Health Committee

December 13, 2019

On behalf of Eastern Connecticut Health Network (“ECHN”), and our two hospitals, Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital, I submit this testimony in **support** of the proposed Settlement Agreement by and between the Connecticut Hospital Association and the State of Connecticut. ECHN exists to provide convenient, top-quality care and service. This solution serves to support what both Manchester and Rockville Hospitals have delivered for decades but also what Connecticut residents expect and deserve.

Eastern Connecticut Health Network’s presence is felt throughout all of eastern Connecticut and is anchored by our two full-service community hospitals. Manchester Memorial Hospital is a full-service community hospital licensed for 249 inpatient beds. Rockville General Hospital is a full-service community hospital licensed for 102 beds. Annually, ECHN sees 76,000 primary care visits, 11,000 inpatient visits, 55,000 emergency department visits, 1,700 behavioral health visits and 1,400 births. We have 320 physicians and 120 advanced practitioners. ECHN employs approximately 3,000 people.

This agreement, when adopted, will provide our network, our hospitals and the state with stability and predictability moving forward. This is key for our communities and our patients - predictability gives us the ability to appropriately plan and make improvements to our hospitals and the services we provide to eastern Connecticut. The Agreement addresses Medicaid rates by providing for stable rate increases over time. Additionally, it reduces the hospital user fee and still allows the state to maximize the federal reimbursement.

We at ECHN appreciate all of the efforts of the legislature and the Lamont administration on this Settlement Agreement. We believe this is a fair settlement and provides for a renewed partnership that focuses on stability, mutual benefit and ultimately what’s best for the state and the communities we all serve.

Please support this Settlement Agreement which will help ensure stability for our hospitals and will greatly benefit the people we serve.

Respectfully,



Deborah K. Weymouth
Chief Executive Officer