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CHA Statement on the Proposed FY 2012-13 State Budget

“We fully appreciate the difficult job facing Governor Dannel Malloy as he attempts to balance needs and resources,” said Jennifer Jackson, CHA President and CEO, in response to the release of the 2012-13 state budget proposal. “Hospitals in Connecticut are all too familiar with making tough choices while sustaining access to high quality healthcare services for our communities. While we recognize that the state is facing an unprecedented budget deficit, reducing funding and imposing taxes on hospitals will severely weaken Connecticut’s healthcare safety net—and will have a lasting detrimental impact on the quality of life and health of all Connecticut citizens.”

The proposed state budget eliminates \$83 million in funding to hospitals that helps cover the cost of care for uninsured patients. It also imposes a 5.5 percent tax on hospitals. Hospitals know from experience how damaging a hospital tax will be on our healthcare system.

Unfortunately, these proposed changes couldn’t come at a worse time for Connecticut hospitals. The number of patients without insurance and those dependent on government programs has been rising at the same time that payments from all sources have been dwindling.

These proposals do not help to preserve the safety net. These budget recommendations make it more difficult for Connecticut hospitals to provide what we all want and expect: high quality care, well-trained physicians and nurses, and cutting edge technology and equipment.

We all benefit from strong hospitals. CHA and Connecticut’s 29 not-for-profit hospitals stand ready to work with the Governor, administration, and legislature to develop viable solutions for promoting a healthier Connecticut and preserving the state’s safety net.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut’s hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut’s not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.