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Connecticut Hospital Association Reaction to Proposed Hospital Cuts

WALLINGFORD – Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA), made the following statement about the proposed funding cuts to hospitals as part of the deficit mitigation plan:

While we are still trying to piece together all the specifics, the picture emerging suggests hospitals and the patients they serve will bear the brunt of the latest round of cuts.

As best we know, hospitals will be cut \$114 million over the next six months—forcing hospitals, their employees, and their patients to cover 31 percent of the state’s budget reduction of \$365 million when hospital expenditures comprise only five percent of the state budget.

It is our expectation that hospitals will do all they can to preserve services and jobs, but cuts of this magnitude cannot be absorbed simply through more budget tightening such as delayed investment in equipment and technology. They will result in lost jobs and elimination of critical community programs and services.

Today, Connecticut hospitals are losing more than \$1.6 million a day caring for the uninsured and Medicaid patients, and while hospitals will be forced to cut another \$114 million, the state will only benefit from \$57 million in savings, with the remaining \$57 million being federal matching dollars that will be lost to the state.

This plan to address the budget shortfall by enormous cuts to hospitals must be reconsidered. Proceeding as planned risks changing the face of healthcare services in Connecticut.

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About CHA

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 hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.