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Statement of CHA President Jennifer D. Jackson

Hospital Community Looking Forward to Developing Strategies for Stabilizing Connecticut Hospitals

Wallingford, Connecticut, July 24, 2007—Connecticut hospitals welcome the opportunity to actively participate in the newly-appointed Hospital Task Force, established by Governor M. Jodi Rell, to develop strategies to stabilize and chart the future course of hospitals in Connecticut.

The Connecticut hospital community is looking forward to building on the foundation of the biennial budget that included funding for expanding healthcare coverage for the uninsured; strengthening hospitals' financial condition through increased Medicaid payments; and building the state's future healthcare workforce. These were significant first steps towards bolstering the financial health of Connecticut hospitals and ensuring residents' access to care. However, it is clear that a more comprehensive approach is needed to address the multiple problems facing our healthcare system.

A June report from the Office of Health Care Access, *Connecticut Hospitals Lost Ground in FY 2006*, again affirms the precarious financial condition of Connecticut hospitals. This report follows two others conducted this year—one in January by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee and another by the Office of Health Care Access—that determined Connecticut hospitals are in increasingly fragile financial condition.

CHA and its member hospitals are committed to working with the Governor and the Task Force to develop strategies for creating financially healthier hospitals and for addressing the related issues of healthcare workforce shortages, emergency room overcrowding, and the chronic issues related to the availability of community services for children and adults with mental health needs. Together, we can build a healthier future for Connecticut and ensure that our residents can, as the Governor notes, continue to “count on having a hospital available—close by, there when you need it and prepared for almost any kind of medical emergency, day or night.”

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