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Connecticut Hospitals Testify Against Governor's Budget

Earlier today, representatives from Connecticut hospitals and CHA gathered in Hartford to testify against proposed bills that would increase the base year upon which hospitals are taxed and eliminate the real property tax exemption for hospitals.

Hospital opposition to the bills, which are part of the Governor's budget proposal, was expressed at a public hearing of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. The two bills are: **SB 787, An Act**

Concerning Revenue Items To Implement The Governor's Budget, and **HB 7050, An Act Concerning Enhancements To Municipal Finance And Accountability**.

Hospitals oppose SB 787 for multiple reasons. It changes the hospital tax from a fixed amount, based on 2013 revenue, to a tax that is rebased every quarter, which would result in a substantial increase in the hospital tax itself. CHA has estimated that, in FY 2018, the hospital tax would increase by about \$76.4 million.

The proposed bill would also eliminate the ability of hospitals to purchase and use the Urban and Industrial Site Reinvestment Tax credit to satisfy a portion of their tax liability, and would eliminate the ability of hospitals to seek redress for taxes that violate the law.

In his [testimony](#) before the Finance Committee, Stephen Frayne, Senior Vice President, Health Policy, CHA, said the problems with SB 787 "are too numerous to count," and he urged Committee members to reject the bill in its entirety.

Hospitals also vehemently [oppose](#) HB 7050, which involves a scheme to eliminate hospitals' real property tax exemption. That proposal would mean not-for-profit acute care hospitals, chronic disease hospitals, children's hospitals, and psychiatric hospitals would be subject to local property taxes unless they receive an exemption from the municipality where such real property is located.

Although the Malloy administration has said it would offset hospitals' liabilities under the property tax scheme with new state and federal funding, hospitals rejected that idea during the public hearing today, saying the state made similar promises when it enacted the hospital tax in 2011 and has not kept those promises – a failure that has resulted in more than \$2 billion taxed and cut from hospitals to date.

At the time of publication, hospitals signed up to testify included representatives from Bristol Hospital, Griffin Hospital, Hartford HealthCare, The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Trinity Health - New England, Western Connecticut Health Network, Yale New Haven Health, and Gaylord Hospital.

CHA Provides Testimony on Hospital-Related Bills

CHA provided testimony on a number of hospital-related bills this week.

On Monday, March 6, CHA provided testimony to the Judiciary Committee in opposition to:

- **SB 932, An Act Establishing A Statutory Cause Of Action For Injury To Person Or Property Based On Negligent Infliction Of Emotional Distress**, a bill that creates a statutory cause of action for negligent infliction of emotional distress. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).

On Tuesday, March 7, CHA provided testimony to the Public Health Committee on the following bills:

- **SB 117, An Act Concerning Community Benefits Plans**, a bill that would require a hospital to include in its community benefit plan measures to address social determinants of health. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).
- **HB 6482, An Act Concerning Real-Time Access To Individual-Level Data For Vital Statistics, Emergency Care And Communicable Disease Records**, a bill that would require the reporting of individual-level data regarding vital statistics, emergency care, and communicable diseases, and provide access to such data to full-time local health directors. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).

On Thursday, March 9, CHA submitted testimony to the Commerce Committee on:

- **SB 968, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Data Collaborative**, a bill that, in connection with the Commission on Economic Competitiveness, establishes a health data collaborative to examine and report on precision medicine and personalized

health and the health data issues relating to those fields. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).

- **SB 959, *An Act Concerning An Inventory Of The State's Bioscience Education Pipeline***, a bill that requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated (CII); the Department of Education; the Board of Regents for Higher Education; and The University of Connecticut to conduct an inventory of the educational resources available in the state to prepare students for careers in the bioscience field. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).
- **SB 960, *An Act Concerning A Study Of The Bioscience Industry***, a bill that requires DECD to study issues relating to the state's bioscience industry. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).
- **SB 962, *An Act Concerning The Development Of Evaluative Metrics For Bioscience Investments In The State***, a bill that requires Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated to develop metrics to evaluate the state's investments in bioscience. CHA testimony can be found [here](#).

Connecticut Hospital Health Systems Contribute \$26.2 Billion to State's Economy



Connecticut hospital health systems contributed \$26.2 billion to the state and local economies in 2015, according to the [2017 Economic Impact Report](#), a report released Tuesday by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA).

In addition to their caregiving role, Connecticut hospital health systems form the backbone of their local communities and buoy the state's economy. Connecticut hospital health systems employ 100,000 people, and nearly every hospital health system job produces another Connecticut job outside the hospital health system. Connecticut hospital health systems generate 199,000 jobs in our state.

In addition to generating jobs, hospital health system spending generates economic activity in communities throughout our state. In 2015, Connecticut hospital health systems generated \$14.7 billion in annual local payroll, \$9.9 billion in spending on goods and services, and \$1.6 billion in capital spending.

"Not only are hospitals critical to the health of our community, they have a positive economic impact of more than \$26 billion dollars a year for Connecticut," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Yet they have been cut and taxed year after year. Today they pay nearly 30 times the corporate tax rate. The proposed state budget would not only raise taxes further but would open a new door to letting municipalities tax hospitals. This is unacceptable and must stop. We need the state to invest in hospitals, which will strengthen our economy and build a healthier Connecticut."

Insurance Committee Holds Roundtable Discussion On Healthcare



On March 2, several hospital executives participated in a roundtable informational forum on healthcare sponsored by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the General Assembly.

Hospital executives participating in the forum included Pat Charmel, President/CEO, Griffin Hospital; Pat McCabe, Senior Vice President, Yale New Haven Health; and Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, CHA.

In his opening remarks, Senator Kevin Kelly (R-Stratford), Committee Co-Chair, stated, "We want to hear what we – members of the General Assembly – can do to help you do what you do best, namely, providing outstanding healthcare to the residents of Connecticut." Sen. Kelly was joined at the forum by another Committee Co-Chair, Senator Tim Larson (D-East Hartford).

In addition to discussion on the challenges hospitals face due to Medicaid underfunding and taxes, the forum focused on steps that the General Assembly can take to assist in the creation and retention of healthcare-related jobs in the state. Forum participants also talked about the need to reduce regulatory barriers and increase support of training and education.

Policy makers asked for possible solutions or ideas to help keep and create healthcare jobs in Connecticut and tackle the biggest challenges facing healthcare professionals. Hospital executives emphasized that, absent the General Assembly eliminating the tax and fully funding Medicaid, hospitals would welcome a cautionary approach with regard to passing new laws or imposing new regulations on hospitals.

Additional participants in the forum included Ken Ferrucci, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Connecticut Medical Society; Matt Katz, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Medical Society; Shelly Sweatt, Vice President and General Counsel, TR Paul Inc.; Paul Taheri, MD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of Yale Medicine and a Deputy Dean at the Yale School of Medicine; and Raouf Boules, PhD, Dean, School of Health and Natural Sciences, University of Saint Joseph.

Thursday's forum was the second in a series of roundtable forums held by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to discuss the challenges and opportunities for growth within certain economic and employment sectors under the purview of the Committee.

Newly Elected Lawmaker Named Vice Chair of Public Health Committee

Newly elected State Representative Dorinda Borer (D-West Haven) has been named a Vice Chair of the Public Health Committee. Rep. Borer was elected on Tuesday, February 28, in a Special Election to replace veteran legislator Stephen Dargan (D-West Haven). She was sworn into office on March 3.



Rep. Borer runs her own management and consulting business and previously served as a Vice President of Field Marketing and Reform for United Healthcare. Active in community affairs, Ms. Borer served on the West Haven Board of Education, founded the West Haven Early Childhood Development Commission, was on the Board of Directors of the Area Cooperative Educational Services Foundation, and served as President of the Irish-American Club.

Modern Healthcare names Marna P. Borgstrom one of its top 25 leaders



Modern Healthcare magazine has named Marna P. Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer of Yale New Haven Health and Yale New Haven Hospital, one of its top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare.

The [program](#) honors female healthcare executives who have successfully managed an organization or company, affected change in the healthcare industry, and demonstrated a willingness to share expertise with others.

Ms. Borgstrom began her career in 1979 as an administrative fellow after earning her MPH in hospital administration at Yale School of Medicine. She has been employed by Yale New Haven Health for her entire professional career, which now spans nearly 40 years, and has held a variety of management roles during her tenure at the system before being promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 1994. She assumed her current position in 2005 and has overseen the expansion of Yale New Haven Health, including deals that have added secular and religious facilities into the fold. The system now has an annual revenue of more than \$4 billion and employs nearly 25,000 people.

Ms. Borgstrom has served on numerous national and local boards, including Vizient, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Coalition to Protect America's Healthcare, and the Connecticut Hospital Association. Ms. Borgstrom has been the recipient of several awards recognizing her advocacy and community involvement, including the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award and the Anti-Defamation League Torch of Liberty Award. She has been named three times to Modern Healthcare Magazine's Top 25 Women in Healthcare. She is an American College of Healthcare Executives fellow.

Deadline Approaching: CHA Annual Meeting Awards

The deadline is approaching for nominations for the CHA Annual Meeting awards. The deadline for all applications is Friday, March 17, 2017. The presentation of the awards is an important part of the CHA Annual Meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospital and staff achievements. Award applications/nomination forms are linked below.

The 2017 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data recognizes outstanding achievement in patient care quality initiatives. It is sponsored by CHA's education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF). All CHA acute care and other hospital members are encouraged to apply. *Note: There is a two-year period of ineligibility for previous John D. Thompson Award winners.* Click [here](#) for an application.



The 2017 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award is an excellent opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements in community service. The award is sponsored jointly by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). *Note: There is a three-year period of ineligibility for previous Community Service Award winners.* Click [here](#) for an application.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes Awards celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. CHA is seeking nominations from both direct patient care and nonclinical areas of CHA member facilities. Ten healthcare heroes, selected by a panel of judges, will be awarded a \$100 cash prize. Click [here](#) for an application.

All entries must be received by Friday, March 17, 2017.

Winners will be honored at the 99th Annual CHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

15th Annual Patient Safety Summit: Challenges and Opportunities in Healthcare

CHA's 15th annual Patient Safety Summit, cosponsored with Qualidigm and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, will offer multiple sessions and perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of healthcare on a national and statewide level. The program is Thursday, March 16, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30

p.m.

The keynote speaker is Tiffany Christensen, a nationally recognized patient advocate and the author of three books exploring advocacy, end-of-life planning, and partnership strategies in healthcare. Ms. Christensen is a Board member of the Beryl Institute and serves on the



faculty of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Her presentation, "Partnering with Patients: A Bed's Eye View of Safety," will weave together themes of partnership, patient safety, and patient satisfaction.

During the afternoon session, Ms. Christensen will lead a workshop, "Partners in Quality: Utilizing Patient Family Advisors Outside the Meeting Room," which will provide information about how patient stories can help reduce staff burnout and be used in peer rounding.

The Summit will also feature a number of other speakers, including Rana Lee Adawi Awdish, MD, FACCP, Director Pulmonary Hypertension Program, Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Medical Director, Care Experience, Henry Ford Health System, who will speak about the importance of human connection in healthcare? Charisse Coulombe, MS, MBA, CPHQ, Vice President, Clinical Quality, Hospital Engagement Network Project at the American Hospital Association, who will provide an overview of the quality and safety national agenda and offer guidance on where hospitals should focus resources to support the intersection of quality, patient safety, health equity and population health? and Sue Collier, MSN, RN, FABC, Clinical Content Development Lead, American Hospital Association, who will provide practical and innovative examples of how health equity and patient safety initiatives can be integrated to support reliable and safe care at

all Connecticut hospitals.

Please see the [brochure](#) and [event registration](#) for details.

Education Updates

HRO Leadership Method Training

Thursday, March 23, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Leadership Method Training is for organizations that are new to high reliability or for new management employees in organizations that are already on the high reliability journey. Both hospital and ambulatory organization leadership practices will be addressed. The session, structured for leaders at the manager level and above, is designed to teach hospital or ambulatory leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors.

Medicine, Nursing, Quality, and Radiology continuing education credits are being offered for this session.

HRO Safety Coach Training

Friday, March 24, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Fair and Just Accountability

Friday, March 24, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session, for Human Resources executives and anyone else who manages people, will train staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event – to focus on the behavior rather than the outcome.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Worker Safety and Worker Engagement

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session supports CHA's efforts to take care of the staff who take care of patients. *Worker Safety and Worker Engagement: A High Reliability Approach* discusses behaviors, techniques, and measurement for worker safety, as used by other high reliability hospitals that are further along their journey.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Train-the-Trainer

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

The model for sharing high reliability training with the rest of the staff is Train-the-Trainer. The training is scripted and requires an enthusiastic participant who is willing to make time to train others within the organization. Other hospitals in Connecticut have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of their training contingent. Train-the-Trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practices.

Medicine, Nursing, Quality, and Radiology continuing education credits are offered for this session.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare

Session I: Thursday, April 6, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Session II: Thursday, April 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Please note: this is a two-session program; participants should attend both sessions.

Healthcare Financial Management - An Overview

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, is back by member request to present the program.

