



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group's Kurt Barwis Named Connecticut's 2017
Grassroots Champion**

WALLINGFORD – The American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) recognize Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, President and CEO of Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group, as Connecticut's 2017 *Grassroots Champion*. Mr. Barwis is being recognized for his exceptional leadership in advocating for hospital priorities such as eliminating the hospital tax and raising Medicaid rates. He has also dedicated considerable time to educating lawmakers on major issues impacting hospitals today.

"Connecticut hospitals are fortunate to have an advocate like Kurt Barwis," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Kurt communicates effectively with legislators, bringing both facts and conviction to bear. Anyone who talks with Kurt will know how deeply he cares about protecting patients, hospitals, and communities. In partnership with the AHA, we are pleased to honor him with the *Grassroots Champion Award*."

Mr. Barwis, who has led Bristol Hospital since 2006, brings more than thirty years of management and leadership experience in community hospital administration, management consulting, and entrepreneurial business environments to his work. He joined the CHA Board of Trustees in 2007, serving since 2010 as Chairman of the CHA CEO Forum, and is also a member of the Committee on Hospital Finance and the Financial Oversight Committee.

In addition to his leadership at Bristol Hospital, Mr. Barwis is Regent-Elect of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, having previously served as a past President and Co-Chairman of the Sponsorship and Audit Committees. He is a member of the Governor's Healthcare Cabinet, the Board of Directors for Qualidigm, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization contractor for the state of Connecticut, and Co-Chairman of the legislative committee of the Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Barwis earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration from LaSalle University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and was a licensed Public Accountant from 1999 to 2007.

The *AHA Grassroots Champion Award*, given annually to one person in each state, was created to recognize hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials about how major issues affect hospitals' roles in the community, who have expanded the base of community support for hospitals, and who have been advocates for hospitals and patients.

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

