



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Hospitals Urge Rejection of Funding Cuts, New Taxes**

Wallingford, CT – CHA today urged the legislature to reject cuts to hospital funding and new taxes on hospitals contained in the Governor’s most recent deficit mitigation plan.

“Hospitals drive jobs and investments throughout the state, and cutting their funding will devastate the healthcare safety net on which so many vulnerable people depend,” stated Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. “While we appreciate the situation confronting the Governor, cutting healthcare is exactly the wrong medicine for Connecticut.”

Since the start of the recession, about 100,000 Connecticut residents have lost jobs and employer-paid health insurance coverage, and the Medicaid and SAGA populations have increased by 75,000; combined enrollment in those programs now stands at about 500,000 – a little more than 14 percent of the state population. In 2008 and again in 2009, Connecticut’s hospitals lost more than \$300 million per year due to under-reimbursement for Medicaid and SAGA patients.

While quality of care and patient safety are the overwhelming priorities for hospitals, severe financial challenges make upholding the highest standards increasingly difficult. Severe funding cuts and new taxes would make healthcare more expensive, further compromise the fiscal health of hospitals, and exacerbate the already difficult burden felt by employers seeking to provide health coverage for employees.

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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.