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CHA and Hospitals to Testify Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association and Connecticut hospitals will testify before the General Assembly’s Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee during a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2015 on the provisions of Governor Malloy’s proposed FY 2016-2017 state budget relating to revenue.

The Governor’s proposed budget would expand the hospital tax to \$514.4 million each year, cut Medicaid rates, and eliminate the low-cost hospital pool for FY 2016 and 2017. It would not distribute enhanced revenue on hospital supplemental payments due for FY 2014 and 2015, and would eliminate payments in the future. It would also limit the use of tax credits for businesses and hospitals.

Hospitals are asking for strong policy that supports a sustainable healthcare environment, not more cuts and taxes. CHA will testify that cuts and taxes are eroding hospitals. Hospitals have already been cut and taxed so significantly that it is hurting patient care, access, jobs, and our economy, and the proposed budget would add even more financial pressure at a time when hospitals need adequate funding to provide the best care. The funds hospitals are taxed would have been invested in patient care and staffing, and been used to improve hospital infrastructure and technology.

What hospitals need is a real examination of the healthcare environment in our state, and a consideration of what is needed to develop strong policy to protect patient care and access. More cuts and higher taxes will simply add cracks to our state’s healthcare foundation.

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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, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.