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**Statement of Connecticut Hospital Association on  
Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan**

While continued economic challenges will require the Governor and legislators to make difficult choices in the months ahead, cutting funds to hospitals is bad medicine for Connecticut. As the state's unemployment rate approaches 9 percent, more people are on Medicaid or without health insurance and turning to hospitals for care. Hospitals have absorbed the burden of uncompensated care and low Medicaid reimbursement rates for decades. Further cuts will harm the quality of care we expect in Connecticut. Stabilizing hospitals during tough economic times is especially important because hospitals serve as the healthcare safety net for the most vulnerable populations. We urge rejection of any deficit mitigation plan that includes cuts to hospitals.

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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.