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State Budget a Missed Opportunity to Improve Care, Preserve Jobs

WALLINGFORD – Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA), made the following statement about state budget, approved by legislators, that cuts \$550 million from Connecticut hospitals over the next two years.

The FY 2014-2015 state budget approved by legislators significantly slashes funding to hospitals and will have devastating consequences for patients, jobs, hospital services and programs, and the economy. This is a blow to every hospital, patient, caregiver, and community in Connecticut.

Connecticut hospitals developed a package of workable, practical solutions that would have given the state the necessary savings to close the budget gap while not hurting funding to any other program or service. Unfortunately, that plan was not included in the final budget.

We feel strongly that hospitals and the administration can and should come together to find solutions that maximize federal funding, reduce costs for patients, and protect vital healthcare services. Connecticut hospitals are dedicated to their core mission of delivering safe, patient-centered, quality care 24 hours a day, and they remain committed to working with the state on meaningful reform that will improve care, access, and efficiency.

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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, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.