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## Historic Federal Stimulus Package Signed By President as Connecticut Hospitals Ask That Funds Be Used to Care for State's Most Vulnerable

Wallingford, CT – On the day that President Obama signed the federal stimulus bill, Connecticut hospitals asked that the Medicaid relief coming to Connecticut be used to take care of the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Testifying before the Connecticut Legislature's Human Services Committee today, Connecticut hospitals asked that the state take full advantage of the economic stimulus package developed by Congress by seizing the opportunity to help those who need it most and support those providing the help, while at the same time contributing significantly to balancing the state budget.

The legislation is expected to provide Connecticut approximately \$1.32 billion in increased federal Medicaid matching funds. By taking advantage of the enhanced federal match, Connecticut can help balance the state budget while at the same time invest in its hospitals—helping to close the long-standing Medicaid payment gap—while realizing the creation of thousands of jobs and maintaining the healthcare safety net for those most in need. Leveraging the enhanced federal Medicaid match funds, Connecticut can actually provide critically needed increased support to hospitals and still spend less on Medicaid.

“These much-needed funds will strengthen Connecticut's healthcare safety net at time when the Medicaid and uninsured populations are rapidly increasing due to the recession”, stated Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. “Leveraging the Medicaid stimulus funds by investing in Medicaid makes good economic sense: it boosts our economy and is good medicine for Connecticut.”

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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.