



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Leslie Gianelli

(203) 294-7213

**Statement Of Jennifer Jackson
President and CEO, Connecticut Hospital Association
Regarding the Governor's Hospital System Strategic Task Force
Preliminary Recommendations**

As President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association, and a member of the Governor's Hospital System Strategic Task Force, I am pleased that many of the most pressing issues facing hospitals have been addressed by the preliminary Task Force recommendations.

It cannot be stressed strongly enough, however, that the state must increase reimbursement rates if we are to stabilize the financial condition of Connecticut hospitals. As discussed in the Task Force recommendations, operating margins for hospitals statewide continue to decline, resulting in threats to sustained service delivery, workforce recruitment and retention, acquisition of advanced technology, and capital improvement. If hospitals are to remain "the safety net for the communities they serve", rates must cover the cost of providing care to patients in the HUSKY, Medicaid Fee-For-Service, and SAGA programs. Without complete and urgent attention to the financial crisis confronting Connecticut hospitals, the Task Force will fail to fulfill its mandate.

The Connecticut Hospital Association and its 29 not-for-profit member hospitals look forward to working with Governor Rell, Secretary Genuario, Commissioner Vogel, and other leaders to ensure the continued highest-possible quality healthcare services for the citizens of Connecticut.

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