



2023 HOSPITAL CHALLENGES

Since the spring of 2020, hospitals have seen challenge after challenge

- **Critical healthcare workforce shortage**
- **Staggering financial hardship** related to COVID-19 and historic inflation in the cost of drugs, supplies, electricity, heat, infrastructure, and labor
- **Sicker patients** with more severe health needs

Some policy proposals being considered by the state would **further destabilize local hospitals**, making it more difficult to grow and support the healthcare workforce, and adding costs for patients. These policy proposals would:

- Increase healthcare costs
- Hurt our healthcare workforce
- Reduce access

The math doesn't work. More financial strain on hospitals will weaken the healthcare delivery system, make it harder to support and grow the healthcare workforce, and limit patient access to care.

SAY YES TO

- State investments in expanding and supporting the healthcare workforce through education and professional advancement (HB 6901, HB 5441, SB 1228, SB 869)
- Ensuring healthcare professionals are safe at work (HB 6741)
- Building a diverse workforce (HB 6901, HB 5441, SB 1228, SB 869)
- Supporting hospitals' work to build strong communities and healthy families by increasing access to care and services beyond hospital walls (SB 2, SB 863, HB 6555, SB 909, HB 6616, HB 6587, SB 978, HB 6488)
- Working collaboratively to address Medicaid and Medicare underpayment and make healthcare more affordable and accessible

SAY NO TO

- **Facility fee restrictions (HB 6669, HB 6634)** that will add more financial strain on hospitals and reduce access to important services outside of hospitals in convenient community settings
- **Capping out-of-network rates for inpatient and outpatient services (SB 983).** Projections show this will lead to billions of dollars in losses to hospitals, resulting in double digit negative hospital operating margins. This bill is not about reducing out-of-network rates, which are already limited by state and federal law. It's about drastically shifting power to insurance companies
- **Policies that limit access (SB 983, HB 6620)** and restrict hospitals' ability to ensure patients can choose who their doctors are and where they can go for care
- **Rigid government mandated staffing ratios (SB 1067)** that will second guess nurses and healthcare providers, delay patient care, increase healthcare costs, and exacerbate the state's workforce problems

In 2022, the four national health insurance carriers operating in Connecticut collectively made nearly \$37 billion in profit, while Connecticut hospitals lost \$164 million.

QUESTIONS? Contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310