

**TESTIMONY OF
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DIRECTOR HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY-
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
SUBMITTED TO THE
INSURANCE COMMITTEE
Date: March 5, 2020**

SB 328, HB BILL 5018

Gaylord Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 328, AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE COST GROWTH BENCHMARKS, CANADIAN DRUG REIMPORTATION, STOP-LOSS INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE** and **HB 5018, AN ANCT CONCERNING HEALTHCARE COST GROWTH IN CONNECTICUT**. For Senate Bill 328, the comments are specific to Section 3.

Gaylord Hospital is a 137 bed Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH). Gaylord is not-for-profit, free standing with approximately 1500 discharges annually. The patients are primarily admitted directly from the short term acute care hospital to continue the necessary extended hospital stay for an acute illness often with multiple comorbidities. These patients are the sickest of the sick. They require daily oversight by a physician, care only available in a hospital setting and usually extensive rehabilitative therapy. Studies show that outcomes for the high acuity patient who receive treatment at a LTACH as opposed to a lower level of inpatient care or care at home are significantly better with regard to readmissions to acute as well as ED utilization. These patients are much more likely to discharge back to the community or next lower level of care without need for re-hospitalization.

The care provided at Gaylord Hospital is an additional cost to the payer, private or governmental. For the appropriate patients, it is a significant cost avoidance, however, and ensures better clinical outcomes. A LTACH is definitely not the appropriate place for the patients of lower acuity with less major complications or comorbidities. Outcome studies clearly show this as well. Ensuring the patient is receiving the right care at the right time in the right setting is what will ultimately translate into appropriate healthcare costs in Connecticut. This may say that spending money up front means saving money in future years.

On behalf of Gaylord Hospital, I urge your support of section 3 of SB 328 and HB 5018 so appropriate care is delivered to patients in the right setting and so that they get the care needed to achieve good clinical outcome in a fiscally responsible manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

