



**TESTIMONY OF
HARTFORD HEALTHCARE
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

Hartford HealthCare strongly supports **HB 5005, An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2021** as it relates to the Hospital Agreement ratified by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in December of 2019.

HHC is a fully integrated health care system serving 159 towns in Connecticut and employing 30,000 people. The HHC hospitals included in this agreement are: The William W Backus Hospital, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Hartford Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, MidState Medical Center, Windham Hospital, and Saint Vincent's Medical Center.

The FY 21 budget of the Department of Social Services, included in HB 5005, reflects the Hospital Agreement which was reached and enacted in December. The Hospital Agreement represents a return of the hospital tax to its original purpose – a means to attract federal dollars to Connecticut without being a real net tax burden to hospitals.

The Hospital Agreement eliminates \$1.6 billion over the next seven years in real net tax burden to hospitals and attracts \$4 billion in federal dollars for the general fund, while eliminating a \$4 billion potential liability for the state.

We urge your support for HB 5005, and specifically for the provisions implementing the Hospital Agreement. Your support will help ensure our hospitals, and those they serve, stay healthy. Together, we will build a healthier Connecticut.