



Testimony of Hartford HealthCare

Submitted to the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday March 3, 2021

Re: HB 6439 an Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 20, 2023 and Making Appropriation Therefore

Hartford HealthCare appreciates the opportunity to submit to the Appropriations committee testimony in support of an increase to the Medicaid rates for home health services. Home health care services have been under reimbursed by the state for over a decade, yet these services saved the state \$1.1 billion over the most recent three years, by transitioning Medicaid clients to community settings for home care services. The state has not reinvested that savings back to community service providers.

Medicaid reimbursement for home health medical services has remained flat since 2007 though the Connecticut state funded waiver services have received a 2.3% increase during this period. In order to achieve parity with the waiver services, home health medical service providers must also receive a 2.3% increase this fiscal year. For the 2022-23 FY we urge the Committee to implement a 4% rate increase for all services under Medicaid Home Health Care.

In addition we would recommend that the Department of Social Services implement a Medicaid rate for Home Health Social Work visits as the role of the social worker in the home is crucial to determining “real life” social determinants of health and assisting those clients with available resources. Thank you for your consideration of these issues for questions or more information, please contact Kim Harrison at 860-263-4137

HHC is a fully integrated healthcare system serving 159 towns in Connecticut and employing over 30,000 people. The HHC hospitals are: Backus Hospital in Norwich, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital In Torrington, Hartford Hospital, the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain, MidState Medical Center in Meriden, Windham Hospital, and St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport. HHC also provides the state’s most extensive behavioral health network, a large multispecialty physician group, a clinical care organization, a regional home care system, an array of senior care services, and a large physical therapy and rehabilitation network.