



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Michele Sharp

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

(203) 294-7213

Sharp@chime.org

Hospitals Converge on Hartford for Connecticut Hospital Day at the Capitol

WALLINGFORD – On April 11, more than 600 nurses, doctors, patients, and others in the healthcare community converged on Hartford for Connecticut Hospital Day at the Capitol. The day began with a press conference featuring patients, caregivers, and legislators, and was followed by meetings with legislators. Hospitals are standing together to oppose the unprecedented \$550 million in cuts proposed by Governor Malloy in his budget.

Speaking at the press conference, Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association, described how cuts would hurt patients, hospitals, communities, and the economy.

“There is no way around it – cuts of this magnitude will impact patient care, shutter programs and services, put people out of work in hospitals and communities across the state, and lay an added healthcare cost burden on businesses, resulting in higher premiums for workers,” said Ms. Jackson. “We are here today to warn legislators about what will happen if the administration is allowed to tax hospitals, and use money intended for healthcare purposes to balance the budget instead.”

“There is no way to absorb the deep cuts in the Governor’s proposed budget,” added Patrick Charmel, President and CEO of Griffin Hospital, “without hospitals having to eliminate or significantly reduce the capacity of services that require an operating subsidy like outpatient behavioral health services, preventive services, community education, and outreach activity. It will also result in reduction of hospital staffing levels, which will without a doubt adversely impact clinical and service quality.”

Andy Hull, RN, from Danbury Hospital, spoke about how cuts would affect patients. “Losing this safety net will severely limit how people in our communities can access needed prevention, screenings, and primary care services. And, sadly, the people who need care the most usually become those who lose care first,” he said.

Bristol Mayor Art Ward, who would have died if not for the emergency team at Bristol Hospital, spoke about the importance of community hospitals. “I was born and raised in Bristol,” he said. “Bristol Hospital is my community hospital. The doctors and nurses there are my neighbors, and they saved my life in an emergency.”

“Hospitals are all about their communities,” added Marie O’Brien, Chairman of the Board of Bristol Hospital. “In the midst of healthcare reform, we are leading the way to strong, stable change. But if the administration taxes hospitals to balance the budget, it will stop this momentum. We need to protect funding for our community hospitals, so they can continue to protect and care for each and every one of us.”

Speakers called on legislators to protect Connecticut’s hospitals and, in turn, patients and Connecticut’s economy. They urged legislators to work with them to find long-term solutions to make hospital care better, more efficient, and less costly.

To date, more than 100,000 e-mails have been sent to legislators, asking them to preserve hospital funding and oppose cuts. For more information, view www.protectmyhospitalct.org.

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About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut’s hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut’s hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.