

JANUARY 2024



CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS CARING FOR CONNECTICUT AND FACING CHALLENGES

**Their doors are always open, their lights are always on,
and caregivers are always ready to heal.**

The cornerstones of their communities...

- Provide **compassionate, high-quality care** for patients 24/7
- Invest in **communities** through programs that help families access food, housing, diapers, and jobs
- Support **over 200,000 jobs**
- Bolster the **economy** as purchasers of local services and goods

...even when faced with enormous challenges

- **Critical healthcare workforce shortage**
- **Staggering financial hardship and negative operating margins**, worsened by the pandemic and historic inflation in the cost of drugs, supplies, electricity, heat, infrastructure, and labor
- **Sicker patients** with more severe health needs
- **Systemic cost drivers**, including commercial insurance practices, administrative burdens, and Medicare and Medicaid underpayments

HOW YOU CAN HELP

State government and local lawmakers are key partners in providing high-quality, affordable, and accessible care to every patient.

Support Connecticut Hospitals

- Remove barriers to healthcare access by improving the state's Certificate of Need (CON) process
- Collaborate to address Medicaid underpayment and make healthcare more affordable and accessible
- Support telehealth flexibilities
- Oppose policies that would further strain hospitals, such as cost growth benchmark penalties, arbitrary caps on commercial payments, site-neutral payment cuts, and further restrictions on facility fees, which would reduce access to critical healthcare services, especially in underserved communities

Support the Healthcare Workforce

- Continue collaborative efforts to stop workplace violence
- Bolster hospitals' recruitment and retention efforts to address the critical healthcare workforce shortage

Support Communities and Patients

- Keep hospitals sustainable so they can continue contributing to strong economies and healthy communities
- Invest in behavioral health services and care
- Address unfair health insurance company practices, like burdensome prior authorization policies, that reduce access to care
- Partner with hospitals to improve health equity, maternal health outcomes, and address social influencers of health, such as access to affordable housing, to prevent illness and advance care delivery

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