

**Testimony of Kathleen Silard,
President & CEO, Stamford Health
SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS, FINANCE,
HUMAN SERVICES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES
Friday, December 13, 2019**

Stamford Health strongly supports **The Hospital Settlement Agreement** and its implementation language in **An Act Concerning Implementation of the Approved Settlement Agreement in the Connecticut Hospital Association et al. V. Connecticut Department of Social Services et al. and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Stamford Health is a comprehensive, independent non-profit health care system that serves a region of approximately 650,000 people. We employ more than 3,600 people, making us the largest employer in the city of Stamford and one of the largest in Fairfield County. Beyond the lifesaving care we provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, we contribute more than \$1 billion to our state and local economy and provide more than \$80 million in uncompensated care to the residents that need it most. We are committed to providing friendly, personal care coupled with the most sophisticated services to all residents of lower Fairfield County.

After months of negotiating, the Lamont Administration, the Attorney General, and Connecticut hospitals have come to an agreement that will end more than four years of litigation with regards to the Connecticut State Hospital Tax. The agreement benefits the state, hospitals, and the patients they serve.

Stamford Health urges legislators to pass both the settlement resolution and the accompanying legislation. Like other hospitals across the state, the settlement provides needed fiscal predictability for Stamford Health and enables continued investment in the services needed by our community, including access expansion and programmatic development.

The settlement 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.

Your support will help ensure our hospitals and those they serve stay healthy. Together, we will build a healthier Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.