



Hospital for Special Care

December 12, 2019

To: Appropriations, Finance, Human Services and Public Health Committees

From: Lynn Ricci, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

Re: Hospital Settlement Agreement; 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

Honorable leaders and members of the Appropriations, Finance, Human Services and Public Health Committees thank you for providing this opportunity to voice our support for the Hospital Settlement Agreement. Hospital for Special Care 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**.

Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) is the fourth largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospital in the U.S. and one of only two in the nation serving adults and children. HFSC is recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in pulmonary care, acquired brain injury, medically-complex pediatrics, neuromuscular disorders including ALS research, spinal cord injury, comprehensive heart failure and comprehensive inpatient and outpatient treatment for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.

We work collaboratively with every acute care hospital and health system in Connecticut to enhance care outcomes for patients with complex, chronic and catastrophic health challenges. While HFSC will not be directly impacted by the Hospital Settlement Agreement, the settlement will directly impact the care our patients receive in the acute setting prior to their admission to our services.

The administration, the Attorney General, and Connecticut hospitals have invested months in negotiation to reach an agreement that will end more than four years of litigation. The agreement benefits the state, acute care hospitals and our shared patients.

Hospital for Special Care urges legislators to pass both the settlement resolution and the accompanying legislation. The settlement 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 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 acute care hospitals retain the capacity to provide high quality care for Connecticut residents and create new opportunities for our state to invest appropriate resources in the care of our most vulnerable citizens including individuals living with complex and chronic health conditions. Together, we will build a healthier Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.