



**TESTIMONY
OF
JENNIFER JACKSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Friday, February 15, 2002**

**HB 5019, An Act Making Adjustments To The State Budget For The Biennium Ending
June 30, 2003, And Making Appropriations Therefor**

Good afternoon Chairmen and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Jennifer Jackson. I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. I am here to testify in support of **House Bill 5019, An Act Making Adjustments To The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2003, and Making Appropriations Therefor**. With me is Stephen Frayne, CHA's Vice President of Finance and Insurance Services.

CHA is here to support the Governor's proposal to add an additional \$15 million dollars to the Urban DSH program established last year. This program, which is in the budget of the Department of Social Services, provides funding to certain hospitals located in distressed municipalities. These are hospitals that have a disproportionate share of uncompensated care and Medicaid caseloads. The influx of these funds will greatly assist these nine hospitals in continuing to fulfill their mission of treating anyone that walks in their door whether or not they are able to pay.

Also, the \$15 million dollars helps to ameliorate the impact of the Governor's proposed use of surplus funds to address the budget deficit. Certain hospitals held harmless last year by the surplus funds will recoup some of that loss through this proposal.

In summary, the Connecticut Hospital Association, which represents all 31 acute care hospitals in this state, supports the Governor's proposal that provides a continuity of additional reimbursement to some of our hospitals, maximizes federal revenues for the state and acknowledges the critical role hospitals play in the delivery of healthcare to the citizens of this state while they struggle to maintain their financial viability. It is important that committee members note that CHA will also continue to advocate for Medicaid rate increases the most permanent method of providing hospitals with the appropriate reimbursement for the services they provide.