



# HOW HOSPITALS CARE FOR CONNECTICUT



CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS ARE THERE WHEN WE NEED THEM, PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY CARE FOR EVERYONE WHO WALKS THROUGH THEIR DOORS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ABILITY TO PAY.

Every year, Connecticut hospitals:

- Treat more than **1.5 million patients** in their emergency departments
- Provide care for more than **345,000 admitted patients**, accounting for more than **1.9 million days of inpatient care**
- Provide nearly **10 million episodes of outpatient services** to individuals
- Welcome more than **35,000 babies** into the world
- Support more than **259,000 jobs** across Connecticut, with payroll totaling **\$21.3 billion**
- Contribute to the economy, with an **economic impact totaling \$41.1 billion**
- Contribute **\$3.5 billion** in uncompensated care, donations, education, and other **community benefits**
- Contribute **\$270 million in charity care/bad debt** to provide services for those who cannot pay



CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS, HEALTH SYSTEMS, AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS ARE ALSO FACING ENORMOUS CHALLENGES.

- The **high costs of drugs, medical supplies, and labor** are straining hospitals, and Connecticut hospitals are spending more to provide care than they are receiving in payments. From 2022 to 2023, **operating expenses grew by \$1 billion**
- The growing cost of drugs, medical equipment, and supplies in Connecticut is **outpacing other regions**. Between 2022 and 2023, drug costs increased by 10% and supply costs by 6.8%
- Connecticut hospitals are collectively **operating at a loss**; Connecticut hospitals produced a total operating margin of -0.5% in 2023. Total Connecticut hospital loss from operations was \$76 million in FY 2023
- The **healthcare workforce shortage** is straining the healthcare system. Significant increases in salary and wage expenses for healthcare workers, exacerbated by the tight labor market across all disciplines, is increasing labor costs in Connecticut at a rate more than double the national growth rate
- **Government continues to underpay caregivers** for services provided to patients on Medicare and Medicaid, with hospitals facing \$1.38 billion in Medicare losses and \$1.43 billion in Medicaid losses in FY 2023

# HOW OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CAN SUPPORT CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS



## SUPPORT THE MEDICAID AND MEDICARE PROGRAMS AND HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

### Medicaid

- **Oppose proposals** that would:
  - Modify Medicaid to a per capita cap program or block grant
  - Restrict Medicaid provider assessments
  - Eliminate the increased Medicaid reimbursement to states for expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act
  - Reduce the federal share of the Medicaid program below 50%
  - Implement mandatory Medicaid work requirements
  - Eliminate the Medicaid state-directed payments rule that allows states to close gaps in payment between Medicaid and other payers by allowing payment to providers according to state-specified rates and methods

### Medicare

- Reject proposals that **reduce access to care** and negatively impact hospitals and healthcare
- Reject **site-neutral payment policies**. Congress should ensure patient access to outpatient services by rejecting additional payment cuts that do not recognize legitimate differences among provider settings (also known as so-called site-neutral payment policies)
- Prevent cuts to critical programs. Congress should extend the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment programs (LVA), both of which are set to expire March 31, 2025. These programs provide rural, geographically isolated, and low-volume hospitals with critical financial assistance in order to ensure rural residents continue to have access to care
- Oppose efforts to modify the Medicare program to **negatively impact urban hospitals**
- Support making permanent the Medicare **telehealth flexibilities** granted during the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Pass the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act (H.R. 8260), extending the **hospital-at-home waiver** for 5 years through 2029. The current waiver is set to expire March 31, 2025. Hospital-at-home programs are an innovative way to enhance access and enable patients to receive care in the comfort of their homes



## SUPPORT HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS AND ACCESS TO CARE

- Oppose efforts to eliminate the **tax exemption** for nonprofit hospitals
- Oppose executive action that **impedes hospitals' ability to provide comprehensive care** and **discourages patients**, regardless of immigration status, from seeking care
- Oppose efforts to **block grant graduate medical education**



## PROTECT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

- Protect the **340B drug pricing program** from any harmful changes to ensure access to more affordable prescription drugs and programs that advance health in Connecticut communities



## SUPPORT HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- Protect **America's healthcare workers** by passing the Safety from Violence for Hospital Employees (SAVE) Act (H.R. 2584) to provide federal protections for hospital workers from workplace violence
- Address **administrative burden** by enacting legislation to reduce administrative burdens that take clinicians away from the bedside and contribute to burnout, such as excessive and unnecessary use of prior authorization, as well as inappropriate coverage denials that require substantive clerical rework by staff