

# 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 **350,000 admitted patients**, accounting for **2 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 approximately 250,000 **jobs** across Connecticut, with payroll totaling **\$22.4 billion**
- Contribute to the economy, with an **economic impact totaling \$43.9 billion**
- Contribute **\$3.74 billion** in uncompensated care, donations, education, and other **community benefits**; including **\$302 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 2023 to 2024, **operating expenses grew by 3.5%**
- The growing cost of drugs in Connecticut is **outpacing other regions**. Between 2023 and 2024, drug costs increased by nearly 10%
- Connecticut hospitals collectively **have anemic operating margins**; Connecticut hospitals produced a total operating margin of 0.2% in 2024
- 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, has labor costs in Connecticut significantly higher than nationally
- **Government continues to underpay caregivers** for services provided to patients on Medicare and Medicaid, with hospitals facing \$1.51 billion in Medicare losses and \$1.46 billion in Medicaid losses in FY 2024



## 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
  - Further 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%

### 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 make permanent the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Adjustment programs (LVA). 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 that **negatively impact urban hospitals**

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Paul Kidwell at (203) 294-7247



## SUPPORT HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS AND ACCESS TO CARE

- Extend the **enhanced premium tax credits** to assist individuals and families to purchase insurance on the health insurance marketplace. In Connecticut the health insurance marketplace is known as Access Health CT
- Oppose efforts to modify hospital transparency requirements that are duplicative and do not assist patients
- 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 harmful changes, such as the conversion of the program to a rebate system, 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 legislation 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