

Testimony  
Certificate of Need Task Force  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Ann Pratt, CT Citizen Action Group

While SB 811 was being moved through the CT General Assembly in 2014, the health care industry asked for, and received permission to submit combined audited financial statements. That provision is now within SB 811. Given that health care systems must now submit these combined audited financial reports to the state, we believe that CON process should also be reviewing any proposed cuts in services through this lenses.

CCAG urges this task force to require that any health care entity seeking to eliminate or change services due to financial resources or challenges must demonstrate that the entire system is at risk, not just one building or location.

In short, a repeat of the Windham Hospital experience needs to be avoided at all costs. The fact that large, profitable health care institutions such as Hartford Health Care can promise the community that there would be no changes in services, and just a few years later, they can eliminate core critical services based upon the financial health of Windham hospital, as opposed to taking the financial health of the entire system, is something this task force should prevent from happening in the future.