



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony in Support of
House Bill 5454: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Health and Educational
Facilities Authority
Submitted by Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
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We support House Bill 5454: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

Connecticut needs creative, state-based alternatives to consolidations and mergers in the hospital industry. Too often, community hospitals believe they have no other route other than a buyout, merger or affiliation to be able to provide services, and invest in facility upgrades. This bill provides another option for struggling community hospitals and ensures that a “self-sufficiency standard” is created that is “applicable to community hospitals [and] takes into consideration the unique economic circumstances facing such hospitals.”

We strongly agree that we need an avenue that supports our community hospitals in their mission, and that provides an alternative the path we have seen many hospitals take—merging with a consolidated health systems. Investing in community hospitals supports our communities, and the patients who deserve access to an affordable, high-quality, people-centered health system.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut (UHCF) is an independent, nonprofit foundation working to shape our state's health care system to provide quality, accessible, affordable care and promote good health for all state residents. We work with a diverse array of partner organizations, as well as with individual consumers from throughout Connecticut.