



**Submitted to
The Governor's Healthcare Cabinet
Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

For several years, Connecticut's healthcare provider associations have been working together to improve quality and reduce costs for all patients, residents, and the state. We are also committed to several initiatives under way with the state to improve the way care is being delivered to the more than 750,000 Connecticut residents enrolled in the Medicaid program – a program that has increased the demand for services due to the Affordable Care Act. Although you will receive separate, individual comments specific to our provider communities, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our shared comments on two matters to the Healthcare Cabinet on the Cost Containment Study.

The healthcare provider environment across the continuum of care is evolving at a rapid rate. We applaud the Cabinet for its commitment to examine ways to improve quality and contain costs. We are, however, concerned that proposals are being considered without fully addressing the current status of the system currently in place. Specifically related to the proposal to adopt a statewide healthcare cost growth target, we are concerned that current Medicaid reimbursement to providers is woefully inadequate, and the first matter at hand should be to provide rates that cover the cost of services *prior* to studying or implementing ways to impose spending growth caps. Any proposal related to statewide healthcare cost growth targets should first and foremost consider the specific and unique nature of Connecticut's Medicaid program in relation to the provider community.

Our provider communities have long been working to develop delivery models that seek to improve patient care. We recognize the Consumer Care Organization (CCO) is a proven model of care transformation and believe that to implement such a model successfully, caregivers across the continuum should be involved in its development. The goal of partnership among our provider associations is to better coordinate care to benefit the patients we serve. We respectfully ask that any final report recommend that members of the provider community be involved in the development of integrated care models.

On behalf of our members and the patients they serve, we thank you for the opportunity to provide our shared comments on the Cost Containment Study being considered by the Healthcare Cabinet.

Respectfully Submitted

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