



## Legislative Update

March 16, 2010

### Governor Rell Releases Deficit Mitigation Plan

Governor M. Jodi Rell released her deficit mitigation plan to close a current year budget deficit of \$504 million. Her plan includes the following:

- \$100 million - Defer State Employee Retirement System Contribution per SEBAC Agreement.
- \$44.8 million - ARRA FMAP for Part D Clawback Payments.
- \$81.8 million - Expenditure Reductions.
- \$58.2 million - Special Funds Transfer
- \$219.2 million - Budget Reserve Fund Transfer from FY 2011 to FY 2010.

Most importantly, the proposal includes a 5% Medicaid rate cut for "certain providers" including home care.

### Statement from Rell Regarding Deficit Mitigation Plan

Governor M. Jodi Rell issued the following statement to the Connecticut General Assembly regarding her latest deficit mitigation proposal.

"Connecticut faces a current budget deficit estimated by my office of Policy and management at \$503.9 million - a figure that is only likely to grow in view of Connecticut and the nation's agonizingly slow recovery from this economic downturn. This deficit must be eliminated now through swift and decisive action. We cannot afford to wait and hope or to count on future revenues that no one is certain we will collect."

"The plan I am proposing not only eliminates the current deficit, but makes much-needed structural reforms that will improve our prospects for long-term recovery. If we do not act now, any short-term cuts we manage to make will be overwhelmed by the inexorable growth of state spending."

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#### Favorable Report Deadlines

**Human Services  
March 23**

**Public Health  
March 26**

**Appropriations  
April 1**

politically popular - but they are the right choices to make."

## Briefing On Deficit Mitigation Plan

The Appropriations Committee held a briefing with Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, Robert Genaruo on Wednesday, March 10. Below are links to the presentation, as well as an analysis of the Governor Rell's Deficit Mitigation Plan by the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

[Briefing of Rell's Deficit Mitigation Plan by Robert Genaruo](#)

[Analysis of Rell's Deficit Mitigation Plan by Office of Fiscal Analysis](#)

## CAHCH Gives Testimony

### Appropriations Committee:

On Thursday, March 11, the Appropriations Committee held a public hearing on Governor Rell's proposed deficit mitigation plan. Several CAHCH representatives gave testimony, including CAHCH Board Chair and President & CEO of Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut, William F. Sullivan Jr. and Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut President & CEO, John Quinn.

Click [here](#) to read William Sullivan's testimony on the Governor's March Deficit Mitigation Plan.

### Human Services:

The Human Services Committee held a public hearing on [S.B. 5411](#), An Act Concerning Medicaid. Section 6 of the bill contains the CAHCH supported proposal to convert some or all of the state funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care for Elders to Medicaid. The increased federal funds obtained from the conversion to Medicaid would be placed in the Long Term Care Reinvestment Account for increases to Medicaid rates.

Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut President & CEO, John Quinn testified regarding Section 6 of S.B. 5411 and ways to maximize federal funds which would bring \$15-\$30 million to the state.

CBIA Economist, Pete Gioia also gave testimony on the bill, saying there needs to be more overall cost savings.

CAHCH President & CEO, Brian Ellsworth also testified at the hearing. Click [here](#) to read his testimony.

### Other Testimony:

Earlier this month, CAHCH also gave testimony at hearings for [S.B. 283](#) and [S.B. 251](#).

## Action Needed On Sick Leave Bill

In a surprise move, an Act Mandating Home Health Agencies Provide Sick

needs your urgent review. CAHCH is interested in learning about any policy, legal or operational difficulties such a mandate may impose on you and your agency. We would also like information on your current established sick leave policies.

Please send this information to [Kristin LaCosse](#) so it can be compiled for CAHCH advocacy efforts.

## 2010 Legislative Deadlines

**Deadline for Favorable Reports:** 5 p.m. on the following dates below

**Human Services** - March 23

**Public Health** - March 26

**Appropriations** - April 1

## House & Senate Bills of Interest

The following bills are of special interest to CAHCH members:

### **[Raised H.B. No. 5296](#)**

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF MEDICAL NECESSITY.

To define the terms "medically necessary" and "medical necessity" for the purpose of the administration of the Medicaid Program.

2/23/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Human Services

3/5/10 - Public Hearing 3.11.10

### **[Raised S.B. No. 251](#)**

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LONG-TERM CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

To add a member of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and make technical changes to the statute establishing the council.

2/23/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Human Services

3/5/10 - Public Hearing 3.9.10

### **[Raised S.B. No. 265](#)**

AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION BADGES.

To require health care providers who provide direct patient care to wear photographic identification badges during the course of normal working hours.

2/23/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health

2/24/10 - Public Hearing 3.1.10

3/1/10 (PH) - Joint Favorable

### **[Raised H.B. No. 5110](#)**

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR EMPLOYEES OF HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCIES AND HOME HEALTH AGENCIES.

To enhance the background check requirements for employees of homemaker-companion and home health agencies.

2/11/10 - Public Hearing 2.16.10  
2/18/10 (AGE) - Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference Public Health  
2/18/10 (LCO) - Filed with Legislative Commissioner's Office  
2/22/10 (LCO) - Reported Out of Legislative Commissioner's Office  
2/22/10 - Favorable Change of Reference, House to Committee on Public Health  
2/23/10 (HS) - Favorable Change of Reference, Senate to Committee on Public Health

**Raised H.B. No. 5112**

AN ACT REDUCING THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE STATE-FUNDED HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

To reduce the amount recipients of aid under the state-funded home care program for the elderly must contribute towards their cost of care.

2/10/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Aging  
2/11/10 - Public Hearing 2.16.10  
2/18/10 (AGE) - Joint Favorable Change of Reference Human Services  
2/18/10 (LCO) - Filed with Legislative Commissioner's Office  
2/18/10 (LCO) - Reported Out of Legislative Commissioner's Office  
2/22/10 - Favorable Change of Reference, House to Committee on Human Services  
2/23/10 - Favorable Change of Reference, Senate to Committee on Human Services

**Governor's S.B. No. 32**

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SOCIAL SERVICES.

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

2/4/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Human Services  
2/17/10 - Public Hearing 2.23.10

**Raised H.B. No. 5411**

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID.

To require the Commissioner of Social Services to amend the Medicaid state plan to include podiatry services and treatment for smoking cessation, to make changes to the composition and duties of the Medicaid managed care council and to require the Commissioner of Social Services to apply for a waiver under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to benefit the Connecticut home care program for the elderly.

3/2/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Human Services  
3/5/10 - Public Hearing 3.11.10

**Raised S.B. 428**

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED STATUTES.

To make various revisions to public health related statutes.

3/5/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health  
3/8/10 - Public Hearing 3.12.10

**Raised S.B. No. 283**

AN ACT CONCERNING AUDITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL

To change the procedure for audits conducted by the Department of Social Services and to provide a right of appeal.

2/24/10 - referred to Joint Committee on Human Services

2/26/10 - Public Hearing 3.2.10

**Raised S.B. No. 424**

AN ACT CONCERNING AGENCY CONSOLIDATION AND THE CREATION OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CONSOLIDATION STEERING COMMITTEE.

To establish a steering committee to make recommendations for legislative action for the gradual merging of the Departments of Public Health, Developmental Services, Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services into the Department of Human Services, and to extend the term of the pilot program for janitorial work for disadvantaged or disabled persons from 4 years to 7 years.

3/5/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections

**Proposed S.B. No. 9**

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS

To transfer funds from the Citizens Election Fund to the Department of Education for the administration of licensed practical nursing programs at the regional vocational-technical schools.

2/3/10 - Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections

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