



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Monday, March 10, 2008**

**SB 576, An Act Concerning Patient Access To Laboratory Test Results**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 576, An Act Concerning Patient Access To Laboratory Test Results**. CHA opposes this bill as written.

SB 576 seeks to make it easier for patients to receive laboratory test results. CHA applauds that goal. However, the text of the bill will not actually make it easier for patients to access this information, which forces us to oppose the bill as written.

Current law requires a physician to affirmatively instruct a lab, including a hospital lab, to provide a patient with initial test results. Otherwise, the lab may not release initial results directly to the patient. The theory behind this is that a patient may become upset or confused by raw lab data, and needs a physician to explain the results initially. Unfortunately, SB 576 would not actually change the current practice because a physician's express, advanced, written instruction would still be needed to allow a lab to release the initial results directly to a patient. The reality is that physicians do not have systems in place to take this extra step. The outcome: patients still will not have access to their initial lab results, and will continue to be frustrated when a lab or hospital accurately explains that their initial lab results still cannot be released.

To achieve the goal of open access, we urge you to revise SB 576 so that patients will have open access to lab results unless there is a physician's express, advanced, written instruction to the contrary.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.