



**TESTIMONY OF
STEPHEN FRAYNE
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, HEALTH POLICY
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 2, 2010**

HB 5354, An Act To Provide Incentives For Hospitals To Adopt Electronic Health Records

My name is Stephen Frayne. I am the Senior Vice President, Health Policy, of the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). I am testifying today in support of **HB 5354, An Act To Provide Incentives For Hospitals To Adopt Electronic Health Records.**

HB 5354 directs the Department of Social Services to take such action as is necessary to meet the qualification criteria established pursuant to Section 4021 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, to obtain incentive payments for hospitals and eligible professionals who are meaningful users of electronic health records. The incentive payments made by the state for this purpose will receive a federal match rate of 100 percent. In other words, the state cost for making these incentive payments is zero.

We believe, based on the proposed rule, that every hospital in Connecticut will qualify for these incentive payments. We would ask that incentives be paid out over three years, as permitted by federal regulation, beginning in 2011: 50 percent the first year, 40 percent the second year, and 10 percent the third year. In the aggregate, the incentives to hospitals over those three years should total close to \$50 million.

HB 5354 presents an extraordinary opportunity to make a major investment in improving the quality of care for all in Connecticut – at a zero cost to the state. This is not an opportunity we can afford to waste.

Please vote in favor of HB 5354, An Act to Provide Incentives For Hospitals To Adopt Electronic Health Records. Your support for this bill will help ensure that Connecticut’s hospitals remain among the finest in the nation, offering the latest in technology and providing the highest quality care for all.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.