



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 2, 2017**

**SB 876, An Act Concerning Reimbursement Of Out-Of-Network Health Care  
Providers And Liability For Certain Unlawful Billing And Collection Practices**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 876, An Act Concerning Reimbursement Of Out-Of-Network Health Care Providers And Liability For Certain Unlawful Billing And Collection Practices**. CHA opposes the bill.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are finding innovative solutions to integrate and coordinate care to better serve patients and communities, as well as achieve health equity. These dynamic, complex organizations are working to build a healthier Connecticut. That means building a healthy economy, community, and healthcare system. By investing in the future of Connecticut's healthcare and hospitals, rather than continuing to cut away at them, we will strengthen our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

Providing healthcare services is an incredibly complex undertaking from both a clinical and an administrative perspective. The complexities of the various public and private billing and reimbursement regimes only add to the challenges facing licensed healthcare providers who seek to apply the skills they have acquired after years of training for the benefit of Connecticut residents in need of healthcare services. SB 876 would expose these dedicated professionals to punitive sanctions for billing errors, which is unfair to these medical professionals and contrary to the best interests of the patients served by Connecticut's healthcare system.

SB 876 makes several changes to the surprise billing law. First, this law went into effect only eight short months ago. But the bill subjects a healthcare provider who makes a billing error to the extreme sanctions of professional discipline or violation of the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA).

SB 876 also provides that any healthcare provider who violates the surprise billing law will be subject to reprimand or discipline by the state regulating board governing the provider's profession or occupation. This provision applies to *unintentional* billing errors.

CHA is unaware of any circumstance in federal or state law in which a provider could lose their license for a billing mistake.

We urge the committee to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.