



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, February 4, 2019**

**SB 16, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Pelvic Exam On A Woman Who Is
Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 16, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Pelvic Exam On A Woman Who Is Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia**. CHA supports the concept of the bill, but has concerns with the bill language as drafted.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. They do more than treat illness and injury. They build a healthier Connecticut by improving community health, managing chronic illness, expanding access to primary care, preparing for emergencies, and addressing social determinants of health. By investing in the future of Connecticut's hospitals, we will strengthen our healthcare system and our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

SB 16 would prohibit anyone from performing a pelvic exam on a woman who is under deep sedation or general anesthesia without the woman's prior knowledge and consent for the exam. CHA supports the concept that pelvic exams should not be performed without a valid clinical purpose, and consent should be obtained when possible. But the bill as written could interfere with clinicians performing appropriate medical examinations or procedures.

Specifically, the bill fails to consider: emergencies including when a woman may be unconscious prior to arrival at a hospital; unexpected developments during surgery, procedures, or labor; and necessary examinations to assess evolving clinical issues.

If SB 16 moves forward, we urge that it be revised to clarify that the prohibition would not apply if the exam is required in an emergency or for legitimate clinical or diagnostic purposes.

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