



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Connecticut Hospitals Testify in Support of Hospital Tax Phase-Out**

WALLINGFORD – Today, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and Connecticut hospitals testified before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee in support of [HB 7058](#), *An Act Concerning The Hospital Tax*. HB 7058 would phase out the hospital tax over a five-year period.

The hospital tax costs our hospitals \$350 million each year, of which approximately \$95 million is returned. The Governor's budget would raise the tax to \$509 million each year. The hospital tax means the loss of vital services and staff from hospitals on which we all depend. It means fewer nurses, longer wait times for emergency care, and less access to the latest lifesaving technology and treatments. It means higher hospital costs for Connecticut businesses and consumers.

Hospitals are asking that the hospital tax be phased down. They support HB 7058, which would start that phase-down in 2017 and eliminate the tax by 2020.

Until that time, hospitals are asking that the tax be reinstated for its original purpose – to attract federal dollars. By equalizing the hospital tax payments and appropriations at \$350 million in 2016, Connecticut would receive \$235 million in federal revenue. That's \$180 million more than today.

Hospitals need these funds to invest in providing safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient centered care for all and ask legislators to support HB 7058.

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### **About CHA**

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.