



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
Friday, March 20, 2009**

**HB 6642, An Act Concerning Solicitation Of Clients, Patients Or Customers**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6642, An Act Concerning Solicitation Of Clients, Patients Or Customers**. CHA opposes this bill as written.

Although CHA supports the intent of this bill, as written, HB 6642 would have the unintended effect of prohibiting community meetings and the general dissemination of valuable information about available healthcare services. The unintended and detrimental consequences of HB 6642 could be eliminated if Subsection (a)(3) of HB 6642 were revised as follows (added text is underlined):

(3) "Runner" means a person who, for a pecuniary benefit, procures or attempts to procure a client, patient or customer at the direction of, request of or in cooperation with a provider whose purpose is to seek to obtain benefits under a contract of insurance or assert a claim against an insured or an insurance carrier for providing services to the client, patient or customer, or to obtain benefits under or assert a claim against a state or federal health care benefits program or prescription drug assistance program, except that "runner" does not include (1) a person who procures or attempts to procure clients, patients or customers for a provider through public media; or (2) a person who refers clients, patients or customers to a provider as otherwise authorized by law; or (3) a person who facilitates, presents or speaks at a meeting, program or seminar that is open to the public and at which information about a health care provider's services are discussed; or (4) a person who is a bona fide employee of a provider who responds to an inquiry or request for information initiated by a prospective client, patient or customer.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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