



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

**SB 1050, An Act Concerning The Availability Of
Automatic External Defibrillators In Certain Health Care Settings**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1050, An Act Concerning The Availability Of Automatic External Defibrillators In Certain Health Care Settings**. CHA supports the purpose of SB 1050, but seeks clarification of the scope of its application to the hospital setting.

SB 1050 would require each dialysis unit, outpatient surgical facility, and residential care home to have at least one automatic external defibrillator (AED) readily accessible, with appropriately trained personnel able to use the AEDs, consistent with a facility policy for responding to cardiac-related patient emergencies. Assisted living facilities would need to have a suitable number of AEDs and personnel available.

CHA applauds the bill's effort to increase the locations where AEDs will be available. Mounting evidence shows that patients who suffer cardiac events outside of a hospital have a significantly improved chance of survival if they are able to be treated by defibrillation in the moments after the heart attack. However, the bill states every "dialysis unit" would be subject to these requirements. CHA's understanding of the bill is that it does not apply to dialysis units at a hospital where trained emergency response personnel already have access to defibrillators and other lifesaving procedures.

To avoid confusion, CHA respectfully requests that Section 1 of the bill be revised to add a new subsection (e) as follows:

(e) This section shall not apply to dialysis units or services provided at an acute care hospital.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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