



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 23, 2011**

**HB 6594, An Act Requiring A Medical Institution To Notify The Department Of
Public Health When An Employee Of The Institution Is Required To Pay For
Or Settles A Medical Malpractice Claim Against The Employee**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6594, An Act Requiring A Medical Institution To Notify The Department Of Public Health When An Employee Of The Institution Is Required To Pay For Or Settles A Medical Malpractice Claim Against The Employee**. CHA opposes the bill as written.

HB 6594 seeks to revise section 19a-17a of the general statutes to add a provision that “any institution, as defined in section 19a-490, that employs” licensed individuals report malpractice payments to the Department of Public Health (DPH). The purpose of this proposed change is unclear.

Reports to the DPH under section 19a-17a are already made by *any* entity, which includes employers, insurers, and any indemnifying or liability-coverage entities; that makes a malpractice payment on behalf of the licensed individual. This system has been in place for decades, and closely mirrors the national data bank reporting system. **As such, the DPH under this bill will not be receiving any additional information that it is not already required to receive under existing law.** The new language will create substantial confusion, as it appears to ask institutions to report information they may not have and that will already be reported to the DPH.

If, instead, the new language applied specifically to payments in cases where the institution is also a party to the settlement or payment, institutions would have enough information to comply – although this extra report would still likely be duplicative of the current law.

We urge you to reject this bill as written, or amend it to clarify that it applies to institutions that are parties to the payment of a malpractice claim on behalf of an employee.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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